The National
Future Farmer
February – March, 1989

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The Bottom Line

The winds of change that swept over the 61st National Convention caused FFA to take the boldest steps ever to break with its past. But like a ship sailing into uncharted waters, FFA leaders must be ever diligent in keeping the organization on the right course and avoid the perils along the way. As a former national advisor once put it, "don't sell your birthright for everything that is new and glitters."

The decisions have been made. Now comes the slow and tedious task of implementation. In coping with change let us not forget FFA's strengths of the past.

A big question is what kind of magazine does FFA need in the future? What changes would you like to see made? Does it need a new name? What king of articles would serve you best? These are the kinds of questions the magazine staff will be dealing with in the near future.

To chart a course for the future, it sometimes helps to look at the past. One of the best descriptions of how the FFA magazine has served the members was written by Blannie E. Bowen, editor of *The Agricultural Education Magazine*, in it's November, 1988, issue. Dr. Bowen, a professor in agricultural education at Pennsylvania State University, said this about *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

"One example of the FFA's influence rests with *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine, the organization's excellent publication. This magazine brought to our rural mailbox eye-opening stories about FFA members, vocational agriculture, and agriculture in general. The magazine also inspired my interest in journalism. More importantly, the magazine was the only mail I received on a regular basis. Although almost everyone read the publication, my FFA membership brought the magazine to our home."

How can the FFA magazine best serve members in the future? Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. Just drop us a letter with your ideas?

Wilson Carnes

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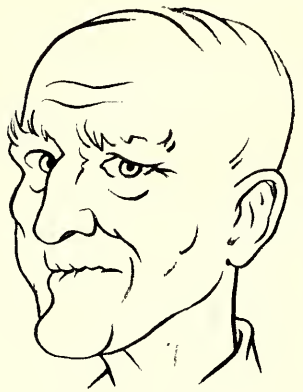

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News In Brief

TPIA Winners to See Oak Ridge Boys

Ten members of the West Muskingum FFA Chapter of Zanesville, Ohio, will meet the Oak Ridge Boys this summer as part of their recognition as FFA winners of the Take Pride in America program.

West Muskingum had been named as TPIA winners at National FFA Convention in November, but details of the grand prize were not final at that time. The chapter will receive ten tickets to the Oak Ridge Boys concert nearest Zanesville in 1989. The FFA members will meet with members of the band at the concert.

Search for Band Director

Applications for a new National FFA Band Director are now being accepted. Those interested in applying for the position should send a resume to Tony Hoyt at the National FFA Center.

Wix Kicks Off Fundraising Campaign

The Fourth Annual Wix Farm Filter fundraiser campaign for FFA chapters will run from March 1 to May 31, 1989. The theme for this year's campaign is "Invest in the Future of Farming."

Each year this promotion raises thousands of dollars for local FFA chapters to use on programs, trips, jackets or whatever the chapter designates as an appropriate use of the funds.

Money is raised when FFA chapters collect boxtops from Wix filter products for farm equipment. The boxtops are then redeemed directly with Wix at $.20 each. Communities can help their local chapters by saving Wix oil, air, fuel, coolant and transmission filters during the campaign and donating them to the chapter.

International News

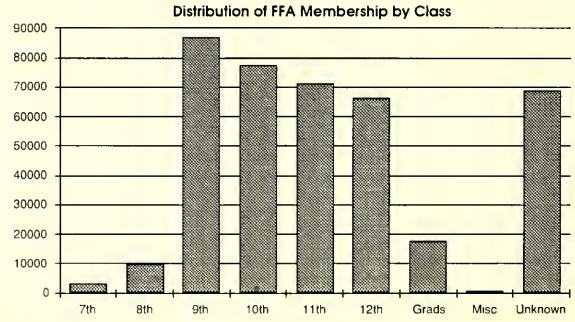
Three and six-month stays in Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria will be partially funded by the U.S. Information Agency beginning in June 1989. This is an excellent opportunity for FFA members to experience large scale farming on state owned farms.

Also, farms, nurseries and businesses to host 1989 WEA participants are being sought. Facilities needed include: aquaculture, forestry, agricultural research, viticulture and wineries. For more information, contact the International department at the FFA Center, 703/360-3600, ext. 242.

Membership Information

Thanks to FFA advisors across the country, the National FFA Organization now has some new statistics that help define what kinds of students are members of the FFA. The information was taken from revised rosters FFA advisors completed in the fall of 1987.

The chart below illustrates the distribution of FFA membership by class. Based on the information submitted, 3,254 FFA members are enrolled in the seventh grade, 10,139 in eighth grade, 87,015 are freshmen, 77,527 are sophomores, 71,284 are juniors, 66,313 are seniors, 17,956 have graduated from school, 809 did not fit in these categories and a substantial 69,129 FFA members' names were submitted by advisors with no information pertaining to grade status.



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Mailbag

Embrace Changes

I commend the delegates of the 61st National FFA Convention for their courage and insight in passing 18 of the 19 constitutional amendments.

No longer can we afford the narrow vision of seeing agriculture as simply a farmer, a man of the earth. Instead we must understand that agriculture encompasses the complex world of business, marketing, technology and science. Thus if FFA is to provide a positive service to those students interested in agriculture, should it not incorporate the whole realm of opportunity that awaits tomorrows agriculturalists?

The FFA has enjoyed its place next to apple pie, baseball, and the American Flag. It is very American and will continue to be with strong leadership.

The voice of the American Agriculture youth has spoken. They have made a profound statement in regard to the direction of the FFA. Let's not forget the values that form the foundations of the past. Separate emotion from realism and continue to promote the finest youth organization in the world.

J. Scott Vernon
FFA Advisor,
Chowchilla, California

Outraged!

I was outraged recently when I read an article about the Future Farmers of America dropping the word "farmers" from its name, simply to help recruiting.

The leaders of this association should stop worrying about enrollment numbers and start worrying about the problems of today's farmer. After all, the organization began with just a handful of people dedicated to farming, not millions who have never set foot on a farm.

Also, why were only a few select people given the opportunity to vote on this issue, and not every single member? If every member had been given the opportunity to vote, I doubt that this resolution would have passed.

Dale F. Johnson
Halesville, Ohio

Amendments to the National FFA Constitution require action by the delegate body at the national FFA Convention. Those delegates consist of FFA member representatives from each state. This system of representation works much like the U.S. congress.—Ed.

A Helpful Hint

I thoroughly enjoy your magazine and would like to drop a helpful hint to other chapters.

When I receive my FFA magazine, as I read through it, I highlight ideas that would benefit my chapter. I then take these items to my officer meetings and we use them to continue the FFA spirit.

Jody Bickel
Rapidan, Virginia

Why not Farming?

I have been in FFA for five years, and I have wanted to be a farmer all my life...not a bio-technician, or a scientist, or a genetic engineer, just a farmer. In that five years I have had everyone from teachers to friends of the family tell me not to go into farming, and it really hurts. Is this any way to build a future for agriculture?

Dennis Mueller
Beecher, Illinois

Helping Hand Recognized

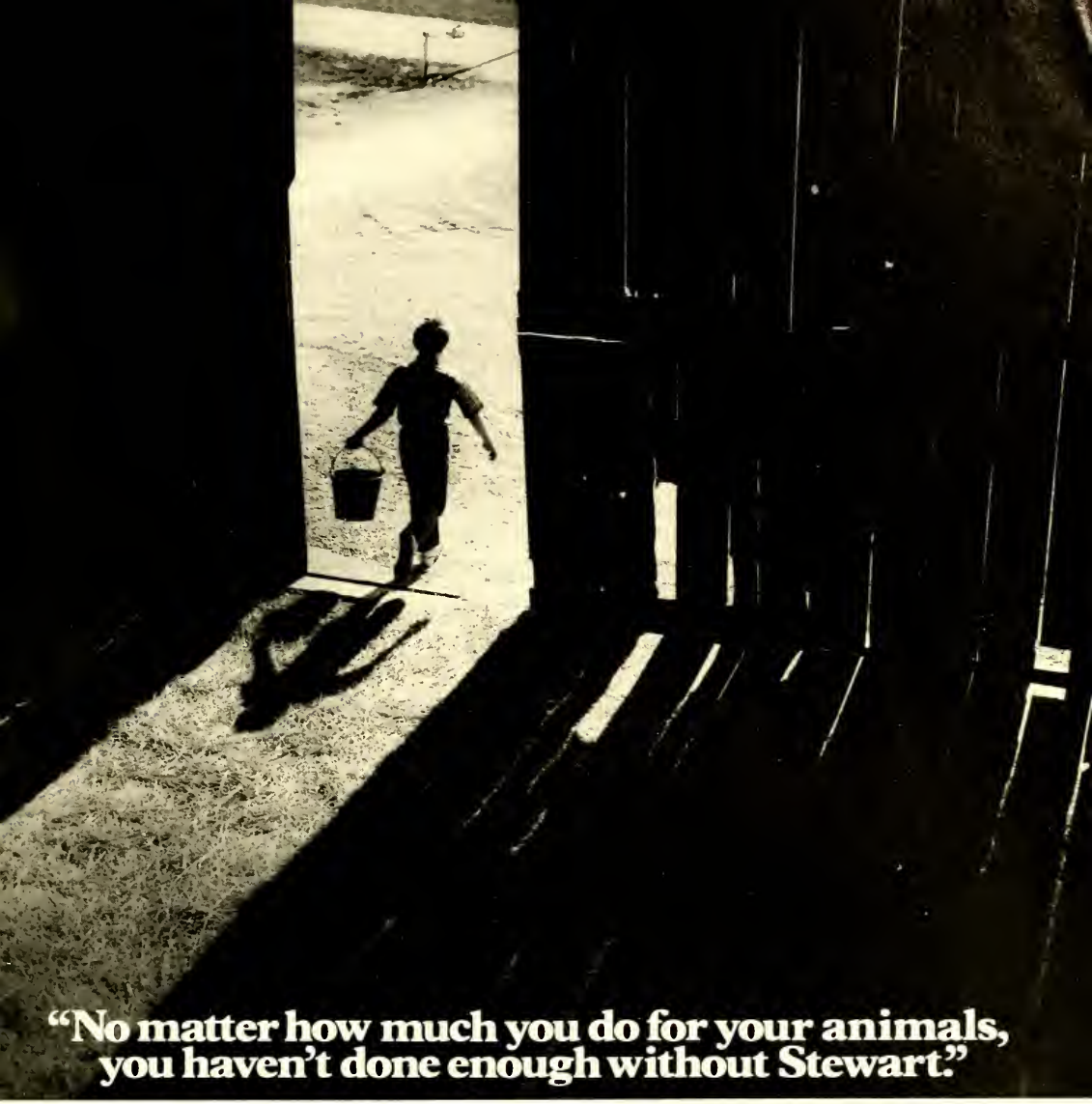
City Center Square is a 30-story office building located near the Convention Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Because we have several restaurants in the building, we attract many FFA participants during your annual convention. It is always a pleasure to host your organization and we look forward to the event each year.

An incident that occurred at our building this year we feel illustrates the qualities of a typical FFA member and directly contradicts those who criticize today's youth as selfish and apathetic.

On November 11th, an elderly gentleman fell on one of the building escalators sustaining several cuts and bruises. The first person to respond was Ms. Kelley Harmon, an FFA member from Presque Isle, Maine. Even after the building staff and paramedics had treated the man, Ms. Harmon continued to stay and talk with him until he was able to leave the building.

Lee Whitman
Asset Manager, City Center Square
Kansas City, Missouri

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.



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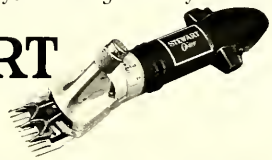

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Looking Ahead

A stand of kenaf, a fibrous plant with potential to supplement wood-based paper pulp, is inspected by ARS soil scientist L.N. Namken. USDA Photo

Growing Newspapers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is beefing-up its research on growing and using the kenaf plant as a new domestic source of newsprint and other products.

According to Howard E. Waterworth of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, kenaf, a fast-growing annual plant, could become a new cash crop for farmers while servicing as a supplemental source of newsprint. He said in 1987, U.S. newspapers used more than 12 million metric tons of paper, two-thirds of which was imported at a cost of $4 billion.

"Industry trials, including test runs by several U.S. newspapers, indicate that pulp from kenaf makes newsprint paper that is as sturdy as wood pulp paper but generally is brighter, consumes less ink and has less ink ruboff," said Waterworth.

Kenaf can be grown in southwestern U.S. areas such as Texas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and California. The plants grow 15-18 feet tall in less than five months and can get as high as 22 feet. An acre yields 7-10 tons of dry fiber.

More Students in Ag Colleges

Officials at many of the nation's largest land-grant universities report increased enrollments this year in their colleges of agriculture, reversing a decade-long decline in the number of students studying agricultural sciences, business and related fields according to the USDA.

Renewed interest in agricultural studies is coming at a time of increasing demand for agriculture and life sciences professionals, say land-grant university officials.

A cross-country sampling of land-grant officials confirms that recruitment efforts and other factors, such as an improving agricultural economy, are beginning to pay off in increasing numbers of college students who pursue agricultural studies.

Kansas State University's enrollment of agriculture majors increased 11 percent in two years. Purdue University's freshman enrollment in 1988 was up 19 percent from a year ago. Penn State reports 16 percent more agriculture students than in 1987 and Oregon State was up 4 percent.

The agriculture enrollments at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Louisiana State University stabilized in 1988 after years of decline.

One land-grant university official summed-up the situation saying, "There is not a single agriculture graduate in our college who is having trouble finding an entry level job—It's the best job market I've seen in 20 years."

According to David Hoff, acting chair of the agriculture division at the University of Minnesota, young people who have experience in agriculture have a distinct edge.

"Young people that grow up on farms or in small rural communities, that have an understanding an appreciation for agriculture, have a tremendous advantage in today's market. They have 18 years of practical experience that you just can't get any other way, and that has value in the marketplace," said Hoff.

The USDA estimates that about 48,000 jobs are available each year for agricultural graduates. Of those jobs, 4,000 will go unfilled.

National Ag Day

National Agriculture Day will be March 20 this year. The mission of National Ag Day is "to provide a very special recognition of the food and fiber industry's contribution to America—a salute to the over 21 million men and women responsible for this production miracle."

The event is coordinated by the ACA Education Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Generic Animal Drugs

Livestock producers may pay less for animal drugs in the future, but may risk residue problems, according to a November 1988 report in the *Drovers Journal*.

The less expensive drugs would come about as a result of a new generic animal drug law passed by Congress last October that will allow generic drug companies to sell formerly patented drugs after the patents have expired. The law will go into effect in January, 1991.

A number of pioneer drug companies who do extensive research and hold drug patents objected to the sale of generic drugs, citing there is no agreed-upon measure of quality in animal drugs as there is for human drugs.

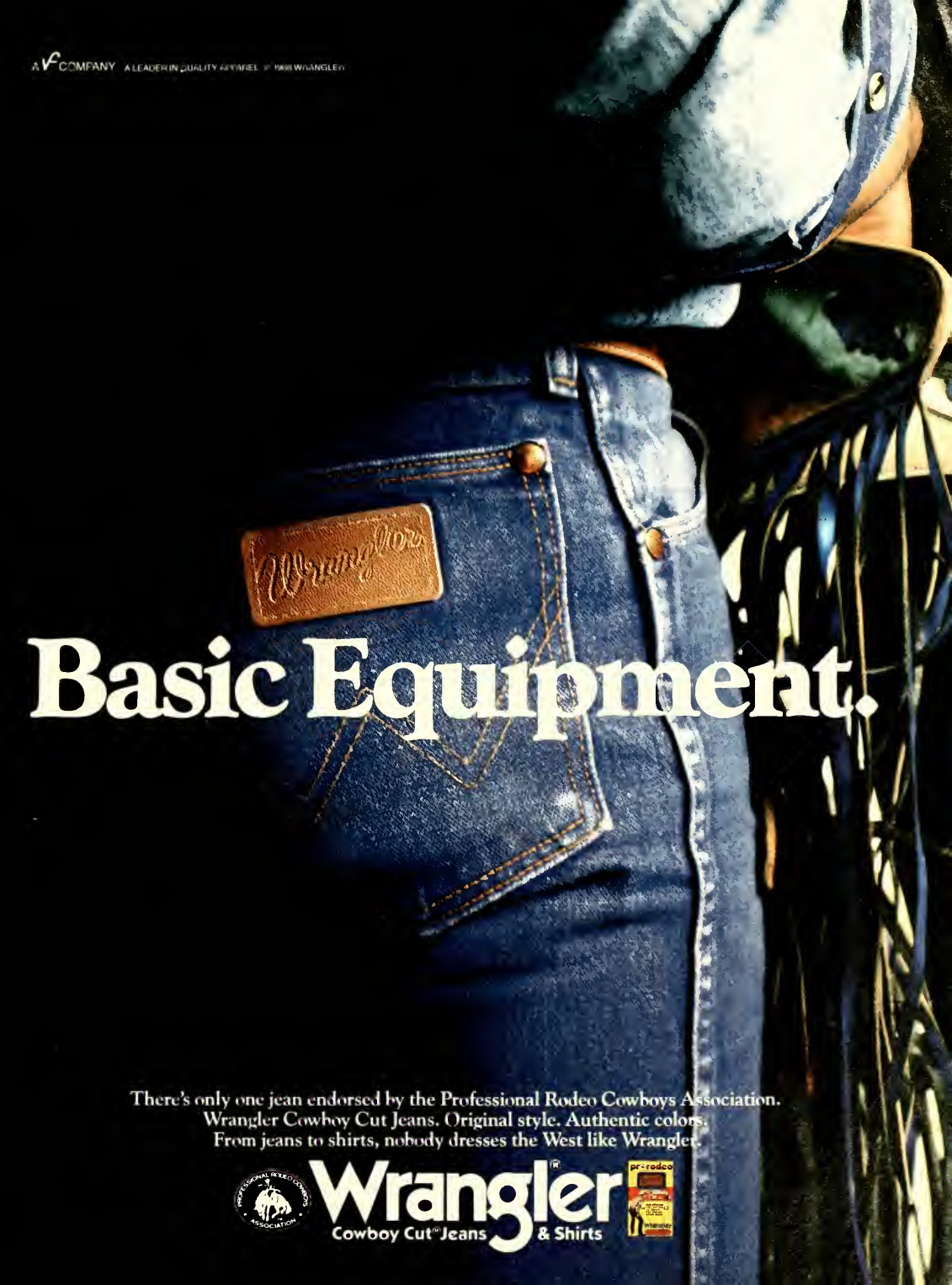
The new generic drugs will lower the cost of many animal pharmaceuticals.

U.S. Exports Up

United States agricultural exports rose 26 percent to $35.2 billion for fiscal 1988 according to the USDA. That figure was up more than $7 billion from 1987. USDA officials credited the programs authorized in the 1985 farm bill as working to increase U.S. imports.

Wheat accounted for two-thirds of the volume increase in 1988. Strong demand and higher prices for livestock and horticultural products helped raise the export value.

The Soviet Union, Japan, China Algeria and India were the five fastest growing markets for U.S. agricultural exports in 1988. The five biggest customers for U.S. agricultural exports were the European Community, Japan, Korea, the Soviet Union and Canada.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Highlights of 1988

By Jack Pitzer

The top news stories effecting FFA in 1988 took some drastic turns compared to the lists of top stories in recent years.

NATIONAL STUDY OF HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE

Probably the most anticipated event in '88 was the release of a national study about high school agriculture education done by the National Academy of Sciences. It was released in September and word spread throughout the nation with mailings to state leaders. The report challenged the agricultural education profession to consider serving a wider audience than just grades 9-12 such as 7 and 8, and make children aware of agriculture.

SATELLITE CONFERENCE

A national forum to discuss the results of the national study was conducted via satellite. Video coverage of a panel discussing the report in Washington, DC, was transmitted via the satellite to locations in 45 states. The study and the forum were both cooperative ventures of the USDA and the USDE.

AMENDMENTS TO FFA CONSTITUTION

The FFA took some actions on its own to make changes when the national convention delegates voted to make 18 amendments in the constitution. This will probably go down as "the big story" for 1988. Talk of changes had been brewing for several years including official study by a task force for 2-3 years. Delegates at the 61st convention considered 19 amendments and passed 18 of them.

The first major change was "the name of the organization shall be the National FFA Organizaton. Recognized units of the Organization may use the letters "FFA" and/or the words "Future Farmers of America" to designate the Organization, its units and/or members.

That action precipitated other changes to degree names, and other references to FFA. Membership in FFA can now be officially opened to 7th and 8th graders. The official emblem now uses the words agriculture education instead of vocational agriculture; and SOE will become SAE -SupervisedAgricultural Experience program.

Several degree requirements were amended in the process and many "house cleaning" changes made.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR CRASH VICTIMS

A memorial fund was established after a plane crash took the lives of two Idaho FFA members and their advisor's wife. Members and chapters all over the nation poured out support for a special memorial fund which reached a total of $23,000 before it finally ended. A special memorial service was held at the high school and Kevin Ochsner, national FFA secretary, attended. The Melba, Idaho, group was en route home from the 1987 national convention when the plane crashed in Denver. Memorial funds were collected through the National FFA Foundation and were used to establish scholarships for the high school.

CHANGE IN OFFICIAL FFA JACKET

Much less serious, but quite unusual was the change introduced for the official FFA jacket. A special jacket lining was made available that could zip in and be used for warmth in some states. The lining was an option for new jackets and was designed to fit in existing jackets with minor alterations. It was the first official change in the jacket in many years.

FFA MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE

Declining FFA enrollment was identified in 1988 as one of the organization's most serious problems. National Advisor Larry Case appointed a special task force of FFA staff to begin work on the subject. His open letter to chapter advisors in the November, 1988, BETWEEN ISSUES newsletter outlined his expectations of a turn around.

AGRISCIENCE STUDENT RECOGNITION

Some increased enrollments may come about because of the extra efforts in the area of agriscience. A new Agriscience Student Recognition Program was launched in '88 that culminated with national winners being named at the convention in November. Gary Todd from Nebraska was the winner. This student program is comparable with the Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award instituted the year before.

AGRISCIENCE CONFERENCE

Another event that emphasized agriscience was an important national conference on Agriscience and Emerging Occupations and Technologies. It was conducted by the agricultural education profession to infuse new methods and ideas into high school ag classrooms. The conference was in Orlando, Florida, with demonstrations, tours, and classes in animal science, crop science, biotechnology, integrated pest management, water resources, agricultural engineering technology, food science and aquaculture. Participants were mostly teachers.

Other FFA highlights of 1988 included the involvement of entertainers Larry Gatlin as a spokesperson in FFA audiovisuals and the Oak Ridge Boys who also appeared with members; the first pull-out poster was in the FFA magazine of the new national officers; a record was set again in FFA Foundation support of $3,330,000; and FFA international exchange programs reached into El Salvador. •••

President Reagan spoke to FFA officers in a White House conference room during the annual state presidents' leadership conference in Washington, DC, in July.

Photo by Jen Mattics

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210-hp. 5.8L EFI V-8
230-hp. 7.5L EFI V-8
180-hp. 7.3L diesel

PAYLOADS
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BUILT FORD TOUGH

Agriscience winner Gary Todd uses his engineering skills to cut crop production costs and protect the environment.

Gary Todd's Electric Mist

By Andrew Markwart

Nicholson Communications Photos

Gary Todd recorded spray coverage data in his home computer to track the experiment. He also made observations about droplet size and patterns.

Devil's Ivy was used in the sprayer's experimental stages due to the plant's leafy surface and low costs.

For over 40 years, agricultural pesticides have allowed crop producers to reach higher and higher yields. Today there are two major concerns about agrichemicals—they are appearing in the nation's groundwater supply and they are expensive, accounting for a large portion of a farmer's production costs.

Gary Todd may have discovered a way to ease both problems. Todd, 19, of Union, Nebraska, developed an electrostatic chemical sprayer that reduces the amount of chemicals needed to control weeds.

The spray from most common row-crop sprayers used by farmers falls on, off and around the row of crop plants and weeds. The weeds die when enough of the chemical has worked its way into the weed's system, stopping one of its vital functions such photosynthesis.

Not satisfied with this hit-or-miss technology, Todd has incorporated technology currently used in industrial painting called electrostatic spraying. The concept is simple: a positive electrical charge is given to the paint and a negative charge is given to the object to be painted such as a car body. The positively-charged paint is attracted to the negatively-charged car and a quick, even paint job with little waste is the result.

Todd developed an agrichemical sprayer that positively charges the spray mixture and negatively charges the weeds. Now the spray is attracted to the weeds rather than just falling on and around them. The result is a fine, evenly-distributed pattern of spray droplets—the ideal situation for the chemicals to attack the weed.

Using this system in field tests, Gary was able to reduce the amount of herbicide needed to control weeds by 31 percent. That's one-third the amount of herbicides being introduced into the field, something environmentalists are sure to notice, and a third less cost to the crop producer, a substantial savings in input costs.

Todd fashioned his first electrostatic sprayer out of a 2.5 gallon variable pressure hand sprayer and a variable voltage battery charger. Since he financed the experiment himself, Gary tried to keep the costs down while not sacrificing scientific precision.

Gary's overall goal was to identify the best combination possible of pressure and voltage. He tested the effectiveness of the prototype sprayer using a highly concentrated dye that could be clearly seen with the naked eye when even the smallest droplets were formed on the leaf. "Devils Ivy" plants were used to test with because of their leafy surface and low cost.

Todd counted the number of dye drop-

lets in a square area on the top and underside of two leaves on each plant sprayed. He entered the data from his tests into a computer spreadsheet program so the experiment results could be calculated quickly and printed.

He found that the best leaf coverage resulted from the combination of 12 volts, the highest voltage Todd used in the tests, and 30 pounds per square inch pressure, also the highest setting tested.

From the small, table-top version of his sprayer, Gary constructed a one-row field sprayer so he could test the true effectiveness of the electrostatic technology. He attached one wire to the tractor's alternator for the source of a positive charge and another wire to the tractor's frame, which is grounded, for a negative charge. The negative wire was attached to a customized v-shaped rod that brushed against the plant stems during spraying.

Todd sprayed the chemicals on field test plots with and without the electric charge. He found the charged chemicals covered the plants 18.25 percent better than without the charge.

Gary says he would like to take the testing one more step. "This summer I'd like to make an actual (full-size) sprayer and see if it would be applicable to our farm."

Agriscience Winner

For his ingenuity and ability to apply science to agriculture, Todd was named the first national winner of the Agriscience Student Recognition Program (ASRP) in November 1988. The program is sponsored by the Monsanto Agricultural Company as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Todd started on the project between his sophomore and junior year in high school. "I had always been active in science fairs and science classes. I was doing research for an FFA speech and I came across this idea of the electrostatic sprayer," said Todd. "I just happened to be in need of a new science fair project at the time. It sounded interesting to me and it was something that could apply to agriculture directly."

Electrostatic sprayers are being researched at universities and private companies. Although some crop producers in the country have adopted the practice, this type of spraying is still not widely used.

Todd said the projects of the ASRP finalists judged at the national FFA convention last fall were "diverse, and that was good because people were experimenting with new technologies in areas they normally worked on rather than focusing on what might be a winning project."

Todd is no newcomer to science competitions. He entered his first science fair in the sixth grade. Between the seventh and twelfth grades, he qualified for the Greater Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair five times. He won the botany division two of those years. His science fair projects ranged from making small robots to cloning carrots to demonstrating his electrostatic sprayer.

Todd built a one-row field sprayer to test his theory under real conditions.

A Bright Future

Gary is an Agriculture Honors freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he is concentrating on agribusiness and finance courses. A $6,000 FFA scholarship sponsored by ConAgra is helping pay his tuition. He was valedictorian of his 1988 graduating class at Conestoga High School.

Gary is also a Nebraska Association FFA officer, serving as the southeast area vice president.

In the future, Gary says he would either like to get involved with a major agricultural corporation or return to the family farm. His father and brother currently run Todd Farms, where they raise corn, soybeans and feeder cattle. Gary owns a 70-head cow-calf business.

With his feet planted firmly in production agriculture and his natural attraction to science, Gary was asked about the possibility of "agricultural science fairs" that could be run by themselves or combined with existing county and state agricultural fairs.

"I think they (agricultural science fairs) should go right along with the regular fairs, said Todd. "At your local county or state fairs, you already are attracting thousands of people. Having science projects there would show the public both aspects of FFA members and let them see everything at once." •••

The Plan of Action

Work is underway to manage 18 amendments to the National FFA Constitution

Eighteen amendments to the Constitution of the National FFA Organization were approved at the 61st National FFA Convention, November 9, 1988. A number of these amendments require changes in the names and symbols used with many of the organization's publications, audio-visuals and Supply Service items. Others affect policies and operations of the local, state and national organizations.

According to Larry Case, national FFA advisor, "changes voted on by the convention delegates will be administered by the National FFA Organization in a manner that is both timely and cost-effective." For example, it will be necessary to reduce current inventory levels of supplies before new items can be stocked because of the money invested in the current inventory.

As a result, almost all Supply Service items, including materials for chapter banquets and state conventions, will not carry the new names and symbols in 1989. Most of the items with the new terminology will begin to surface just prior to the 1990 calender year, according to Dennis Shafer, director of the Supply Service.

What follows are 11 of the key motions passed by the convention delegates and an accompanying plan of action to inform and assist everyone who works with the FFA in their tasks of ordering supplies, integrating changes into their own materials, and planning for a smooth transition with their own activities.

Certain phrases are repeated in different sections. This was done to insure the plans were as clear as possible. Information for this article was obtained from "Amendments to the National FFA Constitution: A Guide to Implementation" which was recently compiled by staff members of the National FFA Organization.

The words "agricultural education" have replaced "vocational agriculture" in the FFA emblem.

Name of the Organization

Motion: To amend Article I of the National FFA Constitution to read: "The name of the Organization shall be the National FFA Organization. Recognized units of the Organization may officially use the letters "FFA" and/or the words "Future Farmers of America" to designate the Organization, its units and/or members."

Plan of action: This change in terminology is effective immediately and should be used by all chapter and state FFA units when referencing the national organization. It will appear in all materials produced in the future. Changes to any materials already prepared or in production will occur when normal reordering or redevelopment take place.

This change of name is only for the national organization; states and chapters may use the references "FFA" or "Future Farmers of America" in designating their local unit.

Vocational Agriculture

Motion: To amend the National FFA Constitution by changing the words "vocational agriculture" to "agricultural education" in all instances throughout the document where the earlier terms are used.

Plan of action: This change in terminology is effective immediately and will be used in all references by the national organization to the educational program of high school agriculture. It will appear in all materials produced in the future. Changes to any materials already prepared or in production will occur when normal reordering or redevelopment take place. State and chapter units have the option of using a reference to the educational program which they deem appropriate.

Supervised Occupational Experience Programs

Motion: To amend the National FFA Constitution by changing

the words "supervised occupational experience programs" to "supervised agricultural experience programs" in all instances throughout the document where the earlier terms are used.

Plan of action: This change in terminology (to SAE) is effective immediately and will be used in all references by the national organization to the individualized, hands-on experience programs conducted by students. It will appear in all materials produced in the future. Changes to any materials already prepared or in production will occur when normal reordering or redevelopment take place.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Membership

Motion: To amend Article V of the National FFA Constitution to read: "Active Membership — To be eligible for Active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program. State Associations may consider "secondary agricultural education programs" to be grades 7-12."

Plan of action: Effective immediately, this amendment makes it possible to extend FFA membership to 7th and 8th grade programs if the students are enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program. State associations will decide individually what grades between 7 and 12 may be considered part of a secondary agricultural education program.

Names of Active and Honorary Degrees of Membership

Motion: To amend the National FFA Constitution by deleting the word "Farmer" from the names of the active and honorary degrees of membership and inserting the letters "FFA" in all the degree names including the Greenhand Degree.

Plan of action: This change in the name of FFA degrees is effective immediately and and will appear in all materials produced in the future. Changes to any materials already prepared or in production will become available sometime during the 1989-90 school year.

Chapter FFA Degree Requirements

Motion: To amend Article VI, Section C of the National FFA Constitution by adding the words "...the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level..." to number 2 and to include: "4. Have earned and productively invested at least $150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program."

Plan of action: Because most chapters have already begun operations for this year under the old requirements for the degree, it is recommended that chapters begin using the new provisions during the 1989-90 school year.

State FFA Degree Requirements

Motion: To amend Article VI, Section D of the National FFA Constitution to include: "4. Have earned and productively invested at least $1,000 or worked at least three hundred hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program."

Plan of action: Because most states have already begun operations for this year under the old requirements for the state degree, it is recommended that states begin using the new provisions during the 1989-90 school year.

Andrew Markwart Photo

Dennis Shafer, director of the FFA Supply Service, says much of the $500,000 worth of Supply Service inventory needs to be sold before items carrying the revised emblem can be released.

State FFA Degree Quotas

Motion: To amend Article VI, Section D of the National FFA Constitution by deleting the paragraph establishing a State quota system and adding the phrase: "The percentage of the total state

(Continued on Page 38)

Suburban Schools Update Agriculture and FFA Programs

Many New Jersey schools see the change necessary

By Matthew Greco

A tall and serious youth of 17, Michael James was raised in a suburban neighborhood, but he wants to enter a career in agricultural production. His idea of agricultural production, however, is out of the mainstream. Michael wants to study aquaculture, sometimes known as fish production.

As New Jersey's green fields of corn, soybeans and vegetables are turned into crops of houses under waves of development, high school agriculture and FFA programs have been faced with a unique challenge: How do you create and maintain an interest in agriculture and provide a practical and meaningful education for today's high school student?

The answer is as varied as the changing field of agriculture itself.

At Newton High School in northwest New Jersey, programs in natural resources, landscape management, floral design and ornamental horticulture have been started that have gathered student interest despite the decrease of farming in the area.

"We don't have farm kids coming here anymore—maybe three or four at the most," says Agriculture Department Chairman Dave Pede. "Where can kids go and use farming skills today?"

"You have to look at the county and say, 'Where can this person be employed?'" says Pede.

Making use of the region's high number of state parks and wildlife areas, the school's Natural Resources class learns about wildlife management, forestry and rural outdoor management. Whether it's trips into the woods to learn about deer habitat, clearing unwanted trees from woodlots or helping the state's fish hatchery stocking program, the students gain first-hand experience in agriculturally related fields.

For Michael James, these trips and classroom sessions about trout-related ecosystems have developed his interest in aquaculture. Its connection to farming and agriculture's overall importance is obvious to Michael. Without protection of the complete environment, such as eliminating soil erosion, he asks, how can the food chain survive?

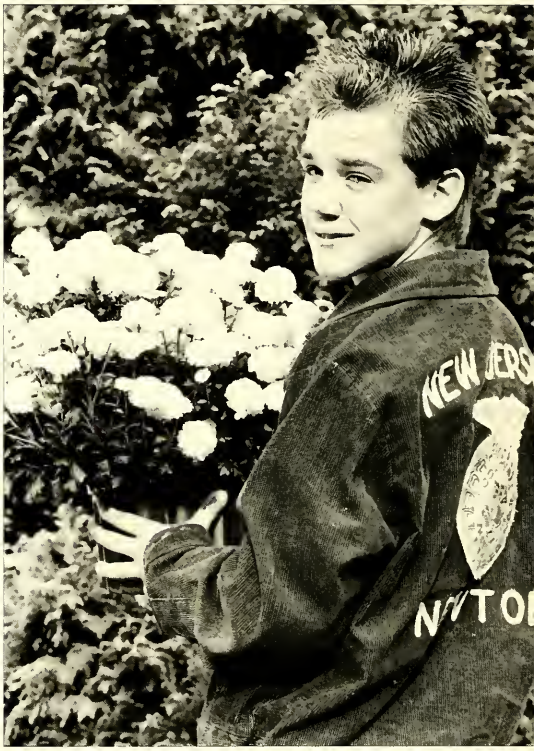
Pede says the new agriculture courses offer students the opportunity to go on to college for forestry, outdoor recreation or related majors. For students who go directly into the work force there are jobs in sporting goods stores, as recreation counselors and in outdoor camps.

Just in Time

In Central New Jersey's Freehold High School, agriculture teacher Cheryl Knapman saved one of the oldest FFA chapters in the state from extinction through an equine management program. Since Freehold lost its production agriculture hold about five years ago, the FFA chapter had dwindled to near nothing. But enrollment in the high school program has now "skyrocketed," she says.

Equine Management "is just where the need is right now," since a major race track, thoroughbred farms and numerous smaller horse farms are in the area, says Knapman.

Students are given hands-on experience with basic equine health, training, cleaning and veterinary skills. Jobs at boarding farms, tack shops and even the state racing commission have opened up to students. And the local community college now offers an equine management course that is an extension of the high school's course.



Newton FFA member Tom Krug helps with the fall planting of chrysanthemums.

The high school agriculture program now has plenty of community support as well as student support, says Knapman, and the FFA chapter has won the state's "most improved chapter" award.

New Classes

At Warren Hills in Western New Jersey dairy cows are making way in the animal barn for sheep, guinea pigs and rabbits.

Large farms in Warren County have been parceled into smaller lots with newer

(Continued on Page 22)

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If you have news, jokes or opinions you would like to see published, send them to:

- *FFA in Action,*
- *Chapter Scoop,*
- *Mailbag*
- *Joke Page*

at the following address

National FUTURE FARMER
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309

Suburban Schools

(Continued from Page 18)

families often just raising a few sheep, says high school agriculture teacher Bob Sills. For students from these families, the animal husbandry program allows them to handle larger animals and learn a sense of traditional farming, he says.

The smaller laboratory animals are part of a developing program in bio-tech research. Because it is agriculturally related, the program allows students to go on to preveterinary or agribusiness courses in college, says Sills. "The agriscience courses teach the principles of science through agriculture. It gives students a better understanding," he says.

Jay Rupell, another high school agriculture teacher at Warren Hills, says the corn production equipment at the school is being sold this year to build a second greenhouse. Bedding plants, cut flowers and ornamental shrubs will be grown. Since greenhouses are in every part of the county, students will learn the essentials they need for jobs in this field, says Rupell.

Students at Newton will also use a greenhouse to grow shrubs they plant in their landscape management program. The landscape plans they work off of will come from computer designs the students themselves make, says Pede.

Corn production equipment at the school is being sold this year to build a second greenhouse.

"Using computers is how we try to show the whole project. It helps," he says. And it's not only educational, it's fun, Pede asserts, since students see that computers can be more than just spread sheets.

And for students like Michael James, that can make all the difference. •••

Anna Murphey Photos

Carrie Perentin (left) and Lisa Marsh of the Newton FFA Chapter, work on a natural resource software program developed by Carrie's brother.

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JUNIOR HIGH AGRICULTURE

A Time To Discover

By Andrew Markwart

Like so many cities in the United States, the metropolitan area of Madison, Wisconsin, is slowly creeping outward. What once were small, independent farming communities on the outskirts of the city have now taken the shape of suburbs.

The nearby town of Verona has gone through that transition. Over the past five years or so, the agriculture classes at Verona High School have also changed.

"Ours is a lot different than traditional programs," explains agriculture instructor and FFA advisor Ferron Havens. "It has to be or we wouldn't be in business. This program would have died years ago if we had stuck with the four-year production ag program."

Verona's agriculture program and FFA are far from dead. This year 150 students enrolled in agriculture classes out of 730 total students in the high school. One hundred of the agriculture students joined FFA.

There are three main ingredients to the continuing success of Verona's program—good instructors, exciting classes and a growing seventh and eighth grade exploratory program.

Havens and 35-year teaching veteran Farres Harrison are well-liked by the student body because of their ability to relate to young people and keep classes interesting.

One reason the courses are fresh and interesting is that the class selection is continually being updated by the two instructors. "We try to change the curriculum to meet the needs of the students and the industry," says Havens. "In the next two years, you'll see a course here in biotechnology and we're revamping our whole agribusiness management class into a business and marketing class."

It is the steady stream of eager freshmen enrolling in the agriculture classes that insures the continued success of the program—and that wouldn't happen without a thriving junior high program.

For the past four years, eighth grade students have been discovering agriculture at Verona in a class conceived and carefully engineered by Havens and Harrison. The object of the class, says Harrison, is to introduce lots of new topics and ideas to the students and not try to teach them specifics in each area.

"The last thing we want to do is put a textbook in their hands," explains Harrison. "We saw other schools who were having problems with their eighth grade programs were making it a textbook course. It was silly for us to try to do the same thing many people were failing at."

The junior high program, which now includes seventh grade classes, is presented with a strong hands-on emphasis and a "high entertainment factor." During the nine-week course, nine different topics are explored–the total agricultural industry, horticulture, companion animals, conservation, forestry, products and marketing, agronomy and soils, mechanics and livestock production.

The daily topics are labeled with curious names such as "Plants have Personalities Too" for horticulture and "If Trees Could Talk" for forestry.

Each day the students encounter a new topic usually centered around an activity in which they can be involved. For example, one day is used to introduce welding. Harrison says the students are given a quick introduction to welding and a few minutes later have a welding rod in their hand. "They get a hold of an electrode, strike an arc and they're scared to death," he says. "But at least when you talk about welding, they know what you're talking about and can visualize that experience."

The "fun factor" built into the class is based on the attention spans and interest levels of seventh and eighth grade students and other demands for their atten-

(Continued on Page 26)

Jan Guell Photos

Agriculture instructor Ferron Havens, right, believes in an action-oriented learning environment. Junior high students, far right, are attracted to the class activities that change from day to day.

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(Continued from Page 24)

tion. "We are competing against MTV and that's tough," says Havens. "If you're going to compete against that, you're going to have to do something that wakes them up and normal, routine things don't."

The trick, says Havens, is to keep the whole process under control. "We don't want it so fun that it distracts and takes away from the educational process," he explains.

Harrison says that it would be nice to go into depth on each subject, but feels the priority should be on a broad range of experiences. "The class is structured so they don't think of agriculture as just farming. They've got to see agriculture as a total, vast area of career and employment opportunities for them. If we can't accomplish that, we haven't done anything at all."

What about FFA?

The recent amendment to the National FFA Constitution that allows junior high agriculture students to be FFA members has Havens and his chapter officer team debating the merits of seventh and eight grade FFA members.

Chapter reporter Shannon Docken, 15, says her fellow officers plan to introduce the junior high members to FFA and involve them in some activities, but at this point probably won't make them members. She adds that if they were made members, it would require more of the older FFA members to get involved in working with them.

Hands-on activities, such as exploring soil characteristics, are the key to Verona's junior high programs.

Since the FFA chapter has over 100 members now, there is no pressing concern to add more members, according to Havens. "Right now we are taking the 'wait and see approach,'" he said. "I want them to have something to look forward to in high school."

FFA will surely come later, says Havens, but "I want them to be interested in agriculture first." •••

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Agribusiness Leadership

High school sophomore FFA members in Missouri who were interested in a career in agribusiness were invited to apply to the first annual Missouri Agribusiness Academy.

Of the 140 who applied and were interviewed, 29 FFA members were chosen.

The main objective of the Academy was to provide an opportunity for the students to view various facets of agriculture, visit agribusinesses and meet leaders in agriculture, government and education in their state. Other objectives of the Academy were to aid the participants in developing communication and educational skills and personal development.

Through participation in the Academy, the student was able to view first hand many career opportunities available in agriculture and to plan their future career goals accordingly.

The selected members of the Academy met in Jefferson City in May for a two day orientation session in their state capitol.

In June the Academy traveled to Kansas City for a three day trip to visit area agribusinesses.

Tour stops included Kansas City Board of Trade, Butler Manufacturing, Mobay Chemical Company and Interstate Underground Warehouse.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture covered all participants expenses.

It's Time to Celebrate!

FFA Week '89 coming February 18-25

By Jeri D. Mattics

Just what is FFA Week? Why is it celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday? And why is it important for FFA members to know the answers to these kinds of questions? The answer is that all members are really spokespeople for the organization, a responsibility which shouldn't be taken lightly.

You may be asked many questions by interested people in your community, including the media, during FFA Week, February 18-25. Do you have your answers ready?

FFA Week is a time that has been set aside for FFA members to celebrate past accomplishments and share their enthusiasm for the organization with the general public while developing leadership skills. It is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday to recognize his contributions to American agriculture. FFA Week is your chance to communicate your message to your community—don't miss out!

Perhaps one of the best ways to handle questions is by turning them into opportunities to explain what you feel is important. For instance, if asked why you're an FFA member if you don't plan to farm, you can answer by explaining that FFA is a very broad organization that involves students interested in all agricultural careers including research, finance, marketing, communications, engineering, horticulture and landscaping as well as farming.

For examples of those careers, ask your advisor for the "Think About It" brochure from the Agricultural Career Recruitment Program booklet which was recently mailed to your chapter along with the FFA Week Idea Booklet. The brochure gives a brief look at the many opportunities available for young people in agriculture. If your advisor can't locate the brochure, it is available through the National FFA Supply Service.

You'll find the Supply Service carries a number of useful items designed especially for FFA Week. Promotional posters, placemats, program inserts, bulletin and billboard kits, pens, t-shirts, caps, bumper stickers, buttons, envelope stuffers,—they have it all. Check pages 17-20 in the Idea Booklet for more information about FFA Week items.

Chapter Activities

You can also use FFA Week to explain your chapter's activities. Most people aren't aware of FFA's community involvement through Building Our American Communities activities or the business experience members receive through their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs.

People are generally interested in FFA contests and awards programs but don't know much about the benefits students receive from them beyond the ribbons and trophies. When asked about contests or other award programs, you have an opportunity to share other aspects of the programs, such as learning how to work with others, as well.

How about answers to general questions such as, "How many FFA members are there?" Do your homework! Ask your advisor for the FFA Fact Sheet included in the Agricultural Career Recruitment Program program booklet. The fact sheet can serve as a ready resource from which to quote facts and figures. If you're being interviewed by a radio, television or newspaper reporter, you may want to have an extra copy of the fact sheet available to give the reporter. They will find it helpful while writing your story.

Another good source of information is the 1988 FFA Week Idea Booklet. It has been prepared especially for your use. Check the sample news releases in the booklet for background information and other ideas.

Being ready to answer tough questions with well-thought through responses will earn you the respect of an interviewer. But don't forget, it doesn't do you any good to know the answers if you don't look sharp. Whether preparing for an interview or going to a chapter meeting, you should be dressed properly for the occasion. A newspaper is more likely to run your photo if you are dressed appropriately.

If the occasion calls for official dress, your jacket should be neat and zipped to the top. Your tie or scarf should be carefully knotted and hang in an attractive fashion. Don't forget the little things like socks. White socks with dark slacks and shoes can be embarrassing.

What if you're prepared for FFA Week questions but no one asks you any? It's up to the FFA chapter to let the local community, including the media, know about FFA Week. The press is always looking for interesting stories. Help them out by calling and suggesting they cover your chapter's FFA Week activities. Have a specific idea in mind and then have the answers ready. Remember, you're a spokesperson for FFA. •••

Special FFA Week Poster !

Photo by Ross Stansfield

To help you get started in your FFA Week celebrations, we've printed a special "FFA Pride" poster on the next two pages. Carefully lift the poster out of the magazine (watch those staples) and hang it wherever you want to promote pride in the FFA.

Of course, the poster can be used after FFA Week for all sorts of purposes such as promotion for chapter banquets, Food For America events, classroom bulletin boards or just to hang in your room. This poster is appearing only in this issue of the *National FUTURE FARMER* and is not available for sale anywhere.

FFA PRIDE

Stan Morris
Sue Miller
VOCATIONAL
AGRICULTURE

The New Ag Professionals

USDA Researcher — Solving Problems for Agriculture

By Richard Dunn

Photo by Author

USDA researcher David Slaughter uses light beams to analyze wheat.

American agriculture is an amazing, almost magical industry. Today, agricultural scientists can do things thought impossible just a few years ago.

David Slaughter is an agricultural engineer with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. At 29, Slaughter is one of the new generation of researchers at USDA.

As a result of the growing need for agricultural researchers, he was recruited for an on-going program encouraging talented students to join the government research effort. The USDA offered to pay for Slaughter's doctoral studies, and provide a full-time job for him while he got his degree, in exchange for a commitment to join the USDA as a full-time researcher after completion of his degree.

Slaughter agreed and headed to the University of Florida to join USDA work there and start his doctoral research. As part of this work, Slaughter helped develop a mechanical citrus harvester. This machine uses sophisticated computer vision to identify ripe oranges in a tree and pick them with a robotic arm.

With the basic research finished, the machine is now in the process of being commercialized by an Italian company that hopes to market a multi-armed harvester.

Now that Slaughter is with the Agricultural Research Service, he is working on two projects to develop instruments that determine the quality of agricultural products. His major project is a cooperative effort with the Federal Grain Inspection Service to measure hardness in wheat. This work will help the USDA restructure wheat grading standards based on hardness.

> ***"You get a problem to solve but you don't get rules about how to solve it."***

Slaughter is working to perfect an instrument that utilizes light beams to analyze wheat. In simplified terms, the device shines light onto a ground sample of wheat and a computer measures what wavelengths of light were absorbed by the sample and what wavelengths were reflected. Since different components of wheat and different sized particles reflect light and absorb light in differently, the computer can tell a lot about a sample.

He is also using the same principles of light reflection and absorption in an instrument to measure the percentage of fat in live hogs. This device is intended to help producers monitor the animals' growth progress and help producers adjust feed rations. This new instrument will also likely be used by meat packers to determine the market value of finished hogs.

This type of research depends on people who have an understanding of engineering, computer science and agriculture. Slaughter says he enjoys his work in agriculture because it's more challenging than similar work in other industries. "Developing robotics to sort apples (for example) is much more difficult than developing robotics to put mirrors on a car. Every apple is unique. It's just a lot more challenging for an engineer," says Slaughter.

He says that high school agriculture classes heightened his interest in plants and steered him toward an agricultural career. "My experience in ag classes and FFA pointed out that ag is interesting and sort of made it acceptable for me to pursue my curiosity in the field," Slaughter says.

Slaughter was president of his FFA chapter in Tucson, Arizona and won the state horticulture judging contest. He credits FFA with helping him develop important leadership skills that have contributed to his success in graduate school and as a researcher.

He also points out that choosing to study agriculture made his advanced degrees more affordable. "The land grant system helps ag students much more than students in other sciences and even other areas of engineering," he says. "Most ag graduate students get a lot of help with their education through work study and fellowships."

Slaughter says he values the creativity and freedom research allows. "One of the neat things about my job is that you get a problem to solve but you don't get rules about how to solve it. The creativity in research is amazing and exciting," he says. "The adrenaline really gets going when you come up with a new idea. The ideas are your own. You've created something unique." •••

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AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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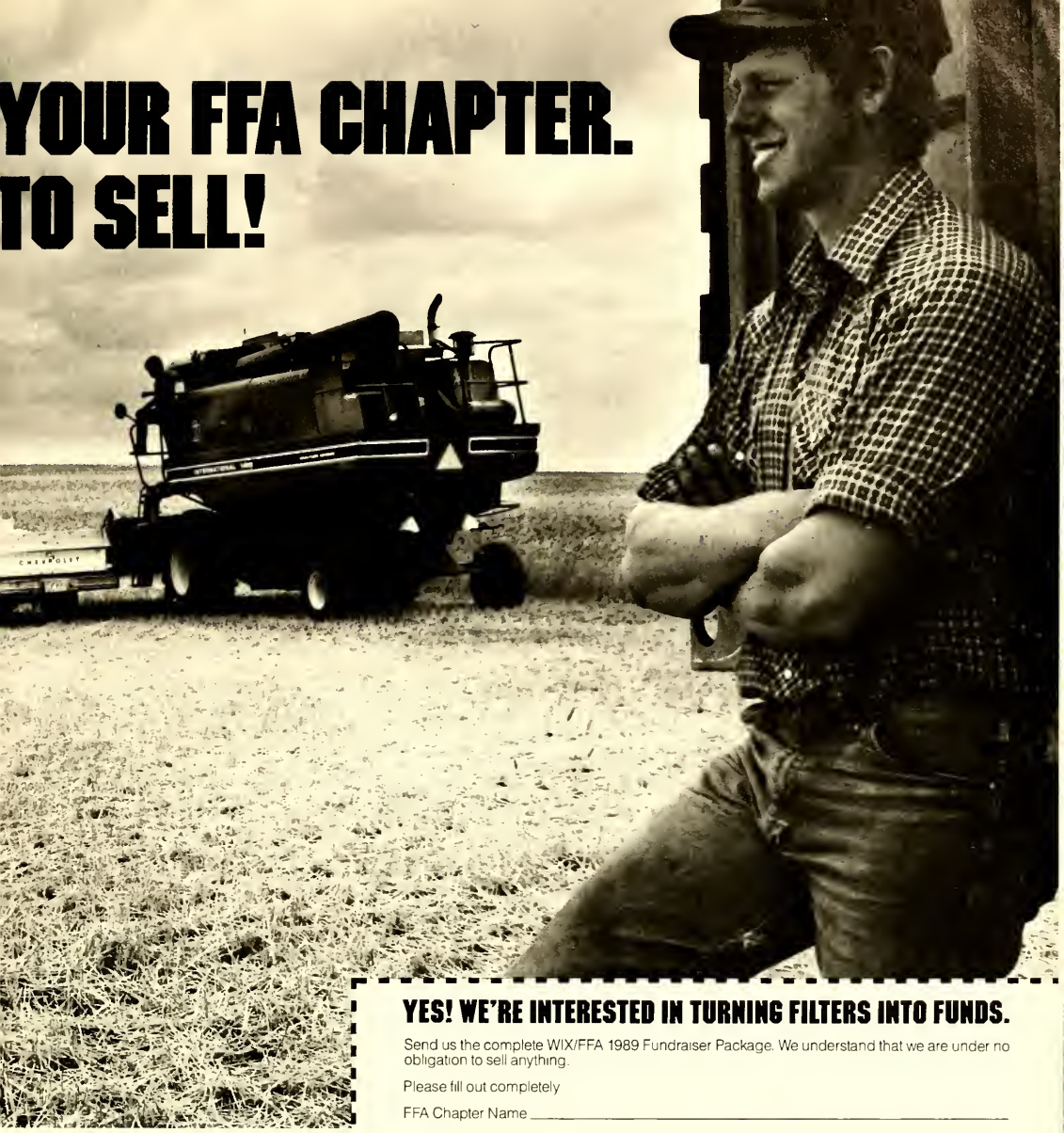

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New Man on Campus

Michael Brown is putting his $15,000 FFA/TSC Scholarship to good use

By Lora Duxbury

Photos by Author

Mike Brown's scholarship allows him to attend South Dakota State University without having to pull money from his beef enterprise.

Michael Brown says he remembers being called into the principal's office the morning after his chapter FFA banquet last spring. He was told that he had better sit down. Both the principal and his guidance counselor were there. What horrible thing did Michael do?

This 19-year-old from Clear Lake, South Dakota, is not the type to cause trouble. The principal had called Mike in to inform him that he had just been awarded a $15,000 four-year FFA scholarship sponsored by the Tractor Supply Company (TSC).

"I asked if I could call my parents to tell them the news," Mike said. "The principal said I could take the whole day off if I wanted to and go tell them personally, but I stayed in school and called them. Dad was really surprised and when I called Mom at work she almost started crying."

Mike's whole family was surprised and excited about his scholarship. Mike is the oldest son of Marlo and Bernadette Brown. He has three younger brothers, Mark, 16, Marty, 13, and Monte, 11, and one older sister, Michelle, 21.

The Browns survived the initial shock and now, several months later, the scholarship has already started fulfilling its purpose. Mike recently finished his first semester as an animal science major at South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, South Dakota.

The requirements of the scholarship are that Mike maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. He has to send in a report each semester on his grades and expenses and is reimbursed. He must also allow his picture to be used for advertising and promotion of the scholarship and maintain full-time student status.

Mike said he chose to pursue his education at South Dakota State University because it was a good agricultural school. "SDSU is accredited nationally and has a good animal science program," he said. "It is also conveniently close to home." Mike said he became familiar with the SDSU campus while attending the annual state FFA convention there.

A Full Schedule

Taking a look into Mike's background of hard work and leadership experiences, it is easy to see how deserving he is of the extra financial help for his education. Not only has he been a hard worker, but he continues to follow a rigorous schedule of work and college activities. In spite of the busy schedule he follows as a college student, Mike finds time to put into his family's farm operation. He drives the 35 miles to his home most weekends to help.

"I really like going back to the farm and helping. During the fall I spend a lot of time on the tractor and during the winter I have an agreement to help my Dad out with the chores," Mike said.

The Browns have a diversified farming operation near Brandt, South Dakota. They have dairy cattle and raise barley, spring wheat, oats, corn, beans and alfalfa.

Mike started a breeding beef project in 1985 as part of the FFA Supervised Agri-

cultural Experience program. His crossbred herd presently consists of 11 cows, one bull and two heifers. He said he hopes to keep his cows as a foundation on which to build a herd in the future. While he is in school Mike buys the feed and makes loan payments on his cattle.

He said if he had not received the scholarship, a large portion of the revenue from his cattle would have had to go into paying for school and student loans. Mike helps meet additional school and farm expenses by working 15 hours per week at a Brookings elevator.

Mike still finds time to be an active college student. His first semester curriculum included subjects such as algebra, general chemistry, sociology, speech and his favorite, introductory animal science. In his second semester he will study organic chemistry, biology, macroeconomics and freshman composition.

He belongs to the SDSU Collegiate FFA Chapter and the Block and Bridle Club. He said he hopes to get involved in the intramural wrestling program during the spring semester too.

Mike started this active lifestyle while in high school in Clear Lake. He maintained a 3.9 grade point average while being part of a variety of community, church and school activities. He was a member of his church youth group and served as vice president of that organization in 1987-88. He was a student council member for two years and served as the vice president of the honor society.

The FFA Factor

Mike worked on developing his leadership skills as the reporter for the Clear Lake FFA chapter in 1986-87. He led his chapter as president during 1987-88. Mike also served in both the district positions of reporter and treasurer.

Mike credits his FFA advisor, Jerome Nolz, for helping him achieve success through the FFA program. "Mr. Nolz has really been just about the best advisor he could have possibly been," Mike said. "Not only has he been a good coach and advisor, but also a good friend and a really nice guy."

Mike said his favorite FFA activities were livestock judging and range(land) judging. He has also participated in agricultural mechanics and agricultural salesmanship activities.

Mike has earned his State Farmer degree and says he hopes to apply for his American Farmer degree during his remaining two years in FFA.

Commenting on Mike's accomplishments for the scholarship application, Nolz said, "Mike is a very dependable and dedicated individual. He would try his best at every task he was assigned." It was Nolz who encouraged Mike to fill out his scholarship application. Both were surprised and pleased with the results.

The Future

Beyond this first year as a college student, Mike is already thinking about his summer plans. "I might purchase a few more head of cattle and work at home this summer or maybe do some farm work for other people," he said.

As for long-term plans, Mike said he hopes to eventually own his own farm. "That would be my primary goal, to go home and farm, but it all depends on the farm economy," Mike said. "Farming right away would be the most desirable option for me, but, depending on prices, it might be more practical for me to get a job and work for a number of years in an agricultural related field until I can afford to realize my goal."

Brown graduated with a 3.9 grade point average from high school while still being active in a number of community activities.

When asked how he felt about receiving such a scholarship opportunity, Mike immediately thought of his scholarship in terms of the benefits it gave to his local FFA chapter.

"The scholarship made the front page of the local paper. I told Mr. Nolz it was about time FFA was finally able to make the front page," Mike said. •••

Don't Miss Out On FFA College Scholarships

Nearly $220,000 in college and vocational/technical school scholarships will be awarded this year through the National FFA Organization's scholarship program. The money is donated by over 50 sponsors through the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

The Scholarships will be presented late this spring to members starting college as freshmen in the fall of 1989.

The scholarships are available to all high school seniors in FFA. The qualifications are simple; the applicant must have been an active FFA member, maintained a satisfactory Supervised Agricultural Experience program and received good grades in high school.

A few of the scholarships require proof of financial need. That information would be provided through a Parent Financial Analysis Form included in the application form.

Although the scholarships range from $500 to $25,000, most are awarded in the $1,000 area. FFA members receive the money after they have submitted their college class schedule to the scholarship committee.

Deadline for scholarship applications is March 1, 1989.

FFA members who need a scholarship application form should check with their chapter advisor. If none are available, request one from: Scholarship Office, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0610.

It is crucial that all applications are due by March 1, 1989.

Chapter Scoop

Culver, Oregon, members were waiters at the retirement dinner for a county judge.

Hillcrest FFA in Cuba, Kansas, planted their third wheat test plot. It had 35 varieties and tested new and old varieties.

Glencoe, Oklahoma, has signed on to adopt a section of highway in their state. Each helping group is given a safety course before they begin work; and a sign goes up designating them as the responsible organization.

Members of **Elmwood**, Illinois, volunteered at the Santa Store in the mall where little children can do their shopping. The store benefits a center for abused children.

Fourteen new back boards were made for the local rescue squad by members of **Western Albemarle** FFA in Virginia.

The **Antelope** FFA in Wellton, Arizona, conducted an ice breaker in order that the new members could get acquainted with the old members

Admission to the **Ysletta**, Texas, Halloween dance was a can of food to be used then in the fall and winter holiday seasons for distribution to the needy.

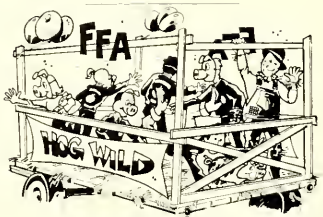
Salesmen of the forty winning tickets for the **Chelan**, Washington, turkey raffle each get $2.00 "commission."

Freshman *Scottie McKenzie* sold $1,014 worth of citrus for **Keytesville**, Missouri. Senior *Curtis Pegelow* sold $771.

Members of **Mariposa**, California, combined community service with fund raising and just plain fun. They took their football throw booth to the elementary school carnival and donated 25 per cent to the PTA.

Page County, Virginia, FFA and their Alumni Affiliate boiled 78 gallons of apple butter to sell this fall. Both groups will split the profits.

The **Warren Hills** FFA Chapter, Washington, New Jersey, sold 1,300 roses on Rose Day.



The **Douglas**, Oregon, FFA prepared their "Hog Wild" Melon Festival float for a parade. The float consisted of live animals, a live scarecrow and a farmer.

New Greenhands and their parents were treated to a spaghetti dinner by **Anthony Wayne** FFA in Ohio.

Wendy Madden and *Kristina Rossi* were the winning designers for the new year's sweatshirt for **Gilroy**, California, FFA.

White Rose FFA in **York**, Pennsylvania, is holding a school-wide safety campaign to see which shop in their school will have the safest record at the end of the school year.

Five **Alex**, Oklahoma, members won Legion of Merit Awards from the National FFA Alumni Association for their efforts at making the Alumni grow.

FFA at **Estill**, South Carolina, sponsored a meal to welcome the new Young Farmer Chapter into their school.

Antelope, Arizona, runs a barbeque on the evening of homecoming. Provides a great service and makes a little for the chapter.

Middlesex County FFA in **East Brunswick**, New Jersey, set up a pumpkin painting booth at the local Octoberfest. They made lots too.

Members in **North Mahaska**, Iowa, are shingling the dugouts on the school baseball field.

Kuna, Idaho, had its annual trivia contest at a fall chapter meeting. Questions come from national and chapter histories.

Bruce Davison and *Brian McFadden* caught the greased pigs at the **Madison Plains**, Ohio, contest. It will be a start for their SOEPs.

Parma, Idaho, had an auction and raised $3,000 to cover costs of chapter travel. Former member *Bob Hoplins, Jr.* was auctioneer.

Old business discussed during the meeting of the **Upper Sandusky**, Ohio, FFA was the toy show and corn huskers contest.

Thomas, Oklahoma, pays for the refreshments, but asks members to make arrangements for them, for chapter meetings.

Members of the **Pender**, North Carolina, Chapter helped school staff spread a load of rock on the student parking lot.

Winona, Minnesota, FFA ran their float in two fall parades since it was a good promotion for agriculture.

Just so you know —Chapter Scoop is reserved for news items about individuals or chapters. We rarely use anything about district, federation or county FFA functions. But we sure like to get all the other news from your chapter. What is going on out there in Alabama? Or Tennessee? Or North and South Dakota?

DO YOU HAVE MONEY TO LEARN?

INTRODUCING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FFA MEMBERS FROM CARQUEST AUTO PARTS STORES.

Your local CARQUEST Auto Parts Stores has always been a great place to save on what you need for your car, truck or tractor.

Now it's a place where you could also get some money to help you through Ag school.

At CARQUEST, we're joining with the Future Farmers of America to offer one-thousand-dollar scholarships to four FFA members who will be starting college in September, 1989. Or who are in college now.

All you have to do is come into any participating CARQUEST Auto Parts Store and fill out the entry form.

Winners will be selected early this summer.

So pick up an entry blank. You could get lucky.

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YOU'LL FIND IT AT CARQUEST℠

(Continued from Page 17)

American FFA Degree Applications

Motion: To amend Article VII, Section A of the National FFA Constitution by changing "five (5)" to "ten (10)" so that it reads: "A State Association meeting its quota may submit up to ten (10) additional qualified candidate applications, which shall be ranked by the State Association, for consideration to fill quotas not met by other Associations."

Plan of action: This amendment is effective immediately and will affect those applications due June of 1989.

The FFA Emblem

Motion: To amend Article VIII, Section A of the National FFA Constitution by changing "Vocational Agriculture" to "Agricultural Education."

Plan of action: This change in terminology on the emblem is effective immediately and the revised emblem will appear in all materials produced in the future. Changes to any materials already prepared or in production will occur when normal reordering or redevelopment take place (jackets, trophies, stationery, etc.).

The only approved change in the emblem is in the wording. Embroidered emblems for new FFA jackets will not be available until current supplies are depleted, which is expected to be some time in 1990. Replacement embroidered emblems may be purchased at that time.

More Information

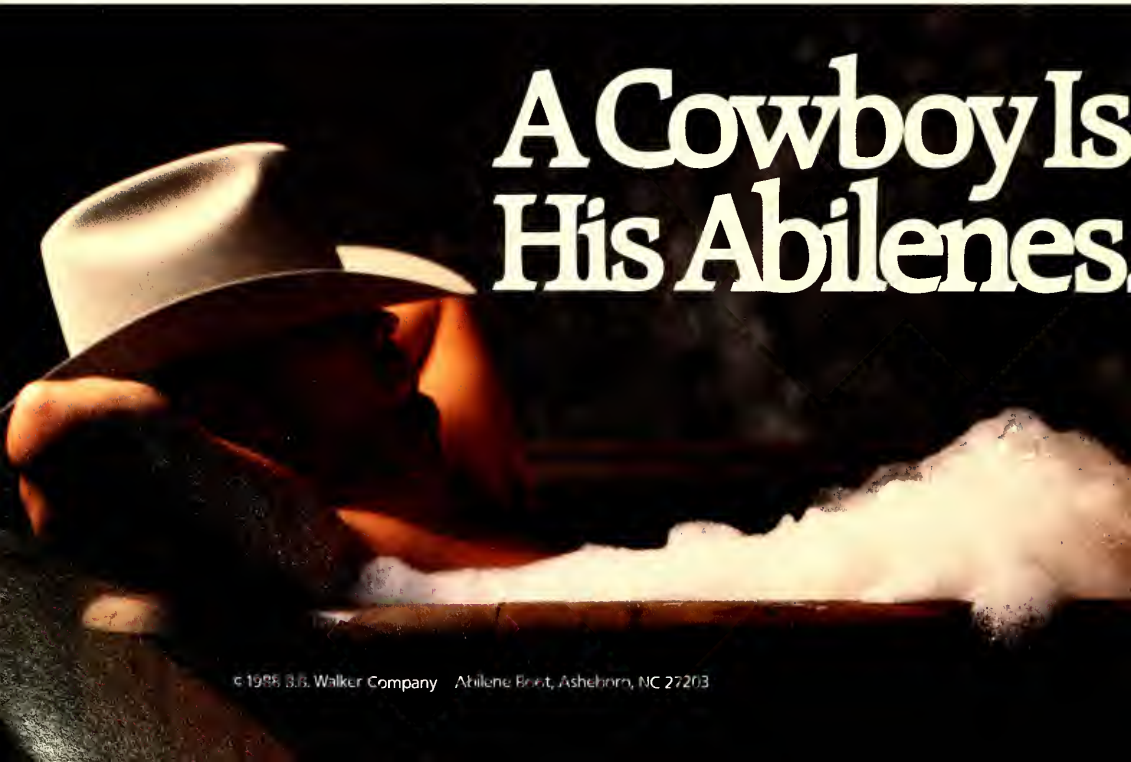
People with questions regarding the amendments should direct them to their state FFA advisor or C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

"Changes will be administered in a manner that is timely and cost-effective."

State and Chapter Officers

Motion: To amend Article XI of the National FFA Constitution to include the provision: "Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the...State Advisor and/or State FFA governing body" (Section A) and "...local advisor and/or governing body." (Section B).

Plan of action: This amendment is effective immediately and will allow greater flexibility in the election of state and chapter officers. •••



Chevrolet Kicks-off New FFA Scholarship Program

Ten FFA members will split $25,000 in scholarship money through the new "Chevy Truck - Future Leaders" Scholarship Program in 1989. The ten individual scholarships will range in amounts between $7,500 and $750.

A unique twist to this scholarship program is that current FFA members will be required to have helped in the recruitment of new members to the FFA organization to be eligible for the scholarship money.

That membership-oriented provision is one of a more general group of scholarship requirements that specify that the applying student must: be accepted to an accredited vocational school, community college or state university; membership dues must be paid in full; have a satisfactory completed Supervised Agricultural Experience program; be recommended by their local advisor and state supervisor; and that college students must provide proof of minimum grade point average.

Proof of financial need will not be required.

Chevrolet will be providing a kit to all FFA advisors explaining the program in detail on or near February 15, 1989. The kit will consist of a color poster, an application form which can be reproduced locally and the official guidelines for the scholarship program. The same materials will be provided to about 5,000 Chevrolet dealers nationwide.

According to a Chevrolet spokesperson, the program is, "designed to foster active involvement in the FFA at the local level, support personal growth and team participation."

The Chevrolet scholarship program is not part of the National FFA Scholarship Program coordinated by the National FFA Foundation that offers over $200,000 in college scholarships from various corporations and other sponsors. •••

"I don't need any pesticides unless you have something for bugs in the computer."

Never Without
ABILENE® FINE WESTERN BOOTS

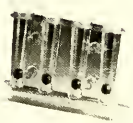
What's New

A Raytec Manufacturing recently introduced a market hog scale, the WayPig 300.

The scale's capacity is 300 pounds, which is shown in one pound increments on a large, easy-to-read dial. In addition to being fast and accurate, the unit was designed to be less stressful on animals.

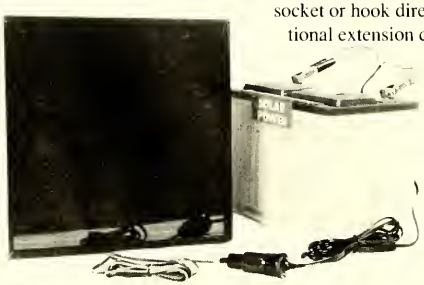
This new unit measures 18" wide (without wheels), 56" long, 55" in depth and weighs 170 pounds. The side panels are made of heavy-duty, 18-gauge ribbed steel; then coated green with extra-hard epoxy.

B Hypro Corp. introduces the Redball Spray Monitor, an inexpensive way to monitor liquid flow. This simple gauge allows the operator to visually monitor proper flow rate of liquid fertilizer and herbicide applications.



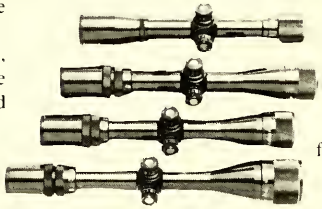
The Hypro Redball spray Monitor shows immediately if a nozzle becomes plugged, as little as 10 percent, and at a glance, any variation in the application rate.

C Charge your batteries with the power of the sun! The Maintainer II from SolarElectric Engineering Inc. produces electricity from the sun to keep your battery fully charged. Simply plug The Maintainer II into the cigarette lighter socket or hook directly to the battery with optional extension cord (as shown at left). The Maintainer II measures 12x12x 3/4" and generates electricity even under poor sunlight conditions such as overcast skies.

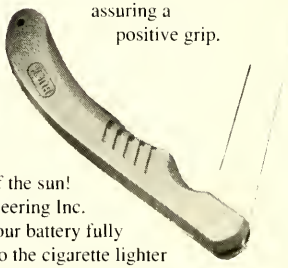


D Marksman® Products introduces a new line of state-of-the-art scopes designed specifically for air rifles.

With ultra-strong monotube construction and multi-coated lenses, these four newest Marksman scopes provide maximum light transmission, wide field of view and sharp image. The scopes include the uniqueModel 6420 with 4X magnification and 20mm aperture, making it an ideal small target scope. All of the scopes are nitrogen filled, waterproof and fogproof, with a permanently centered reticle and hard anodized finish.



E Buck Knives' new folding fish fillet knife, called Tru-Blue™, offers important user advantages. It has a new, patented Bucklock™ system and an easy-to-clean open-channel body. TruBlue's 5 1/2-inch midflex blade is made of Buck's high-chrome, high-carbon, rust-resistant modified stainless steel. The bright blue handles of Buck's Model 539 are made of Kraton, an engineering thermoplastic that becomes slightly tacky when wet, assuring a positive grip.



F A new E-Z Load pickup ramp from the Blu Rivr Division of Reinke Manufacturing Company is available in either 42- or 48-inch widths. It can be folded and stored on the inside of the tailgate of the vehicle while keeping the loadbed area of the truck free and clear. Maximum load capacity for the ramp is 750 pounds.

G Horiba Instruments, Inc. has introduced the "Cardy", a simple, shirtpocket pH meter ideal for accurate, rapid soil pH measurements.

Soil is placed on the flat sensing surface and a drop of water added. The result is read on a digital display.

1988 NATIONAL FARM AND HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENT WINNER

Tennessee FFAer protects beauty, productivity of his farm

Tim Thomas

The rugged hills and deep valleys of east Tennessee create a magnificent landscape. But the natural splendor and fertility of this region are constantly threatened by the ravages of soil erosion.

To protect the scenic beauty and agricultural productivity of his Tennessee farm, Tim Thomas has worked diligently to repair buildings, improve the land and conserve the soil.

When the Thomas family moved to a 125-acre farm near Athens, Tenn., in 1984, "it looked like a disaster area," Tim recalls. "The farm had been vacant for nearly 20 years, and the fields were completely overgrown. The buildings were either falling down or needed major repairs."

With guidance from his FFA advisors Jonathan Pierce and Mike Gentry and support from his parents, David and Marie, he started extensive renovation and conservation projects.

To divert water from poorly drained soils, he built grass waterways, constructed open ditches and installed underground tiles. To reduce erosion, he planted cover crops.

Eventually, he established and improved 85 acres of pasture for his cattle operation.

He also built fences, constructed livestock handling facilities and rewired many of the farm buildings.

To beautify the house, he erected a deck and planted flower beds.

Tim's transformation of the farm amazed his FFA advisors. "Everyone is impressed with his accomplishments," says advisor Pierce. "But most importantly, all of Tim's projects took into consideration the long-term impact on the environment."

Because of Tim's commitment to preventing erosion, his farm was designated a McMinn County Soil Conservation Farm in 1986.

This distinction, like the National Farm and Homestead Improvement Award, was earned through persistence and hard work.

Currently, Tim's family operates a Vonore, Tenn., farm founded by his great-great grandfather. Tim also is enrolled at Carson-Newman College and one day would like to teach agriculture.

Improving the family farm is another challenge for this determined FFAer. "I am excited about preserving and increasing the quality and beauty of a farm that possesses my family heritage," he says.

Because of the skill and determination of FFA members, like Tim, The Upjohn Company is proud to sponsor the National Farm and Homestead Improvement Award for the 13th consecutive year.

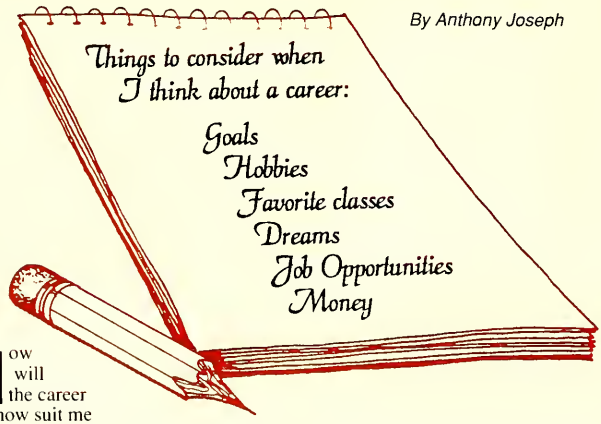
Because of his FFA experience, Tim is prepared for another challenge—to increase the agricultural productivity and preserve the beauty of a Tennessee farm founded by his great-great grandfather.

Upjohn The Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001 ASGROW

Taking inventory of your interests will help you make the right...

Career Choices

By Anthony Joseph



"How will the career I pick now suit me later?" was the question going through a pre-med student's mind as he flipped the pages of his class notebook.

Here he was just about finished with pre-med and ready to enter a school of medicine. But now he hesitated. He was giving his leisure activity, cub-piloting at a local airfield, another thought. Once he entered medical school, he knew he'd have to cut down or even drop flying all together. "Am I ready to give up flying, something I've enjoyed and always wanted to do?" He was about to make a daring decision to change, possibly, his entire life.

Resigning one career to begin another requires a great deal of courage and careful thought. For every person showing courage, ability, and determination to change a way of life, you can see ten or twenty others going through life thinking about what they might have done in another field.

While it's not advisable for everyone to do what our young pre-med student did, it is important to think carefully about the career you choose now before committing yourself to it.

What Do I Like To Do?

"Will the career I pick now suit me later?" might be a hard question to answer, but it needn't be. If you analyze the activities taking up your leisure time, holding your interest from month to month, and giving you a feeling of satisfaction, you already have a good idea of what you enjoy doing. "How can I have enough foresight now to pick a lifetime career?"

Start by answering some basic questions about your future. What school subjects really give you satisfaction? Take Henry, for instance. His father is an engineer. Naturally Henry is considering a career in engineering. But is it really what he's interested in doing? In school Henry enjoys history. He's fascinated by historical characters, he sees how situations and people command one another, and he recognizes how history so often repeats events so it's logical that he should give some serious thought to a career involving history. Engineering could be the wrong road for Henry.

After considering both fields, he might decide on engineering as a career with history as a hobby, but at least in later life he would know his career was a choice based on thought and not something he drifted into.

What hobby or hobbies hold your attention but have little to do with your school interests?

Let's look at Dan, who receives average grades in his classes. He's taking Latin this semester and possibly another language next term to make sure he has enough college prep credits by his senior year. "Entrance to a 'good' college requires solid high school course work," he's heard over and over. So he struggles and studies for long hours, wishing he could put more time on the wood working project he has in his basement.

Dan can hardly wait for the weekends when he has some spare time from his studies to devote to his project. He knows how important a college education is but will he be happy with one? Only Dan will know, but he'd better find out soon.

He can start by investigating the field of wood working design and carpentry and by analyzing his reasons for wanting to go on to college.

Do you build castles in the sky? Sharon has this problem. Sharon sings, in fact, good enough to win a spot as a soloist in the Christmas program. She follows the careers of young vocalists by buying records and music magazines. She dreams of being a performer herself one day, yet she would like to be a teacher like her sister she admires so much.

Sharon, like many young people, finds more than one thing she would like to do in life. To solve her problem she must learn to determine and dedicate herself to her strongest interest. Many times an occupation seems glamourous, but the glamour wears off when a person discovers the hard work involved. Approach your career choice cautiously.

Are you not taking college prep subjects now because you feel your parents can't support you through college later? If you substitute lack of financial investigation and foresight for dedication to your parents, you could easily blind yourself on both counts in sacrificing to you and your family.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance shows over 3 million college students received yearly federal grants last year, close to 4 million received loans, and about 100,000 were on Work-Study Programs. The grants and loans assist lower and middle income student-families to continue their education beyond high school.

Re-evaluate your current thinking about what you're going to do after high school. Not only teens but even adults must often stop to take stock of present plans and adjust or modify for possible future goals and ambitions.

If you have a doubt about what you or someone else wants you to do, you owe it to yourself to think and talk it over thoroughly. Outside activities generally dictate your real interests, but don't mistake passing fancies for a full-time career. •••

A New Era for Irrigation

Crop producers are using their irrigation systems to deliver pesticides and fertilizers economically.

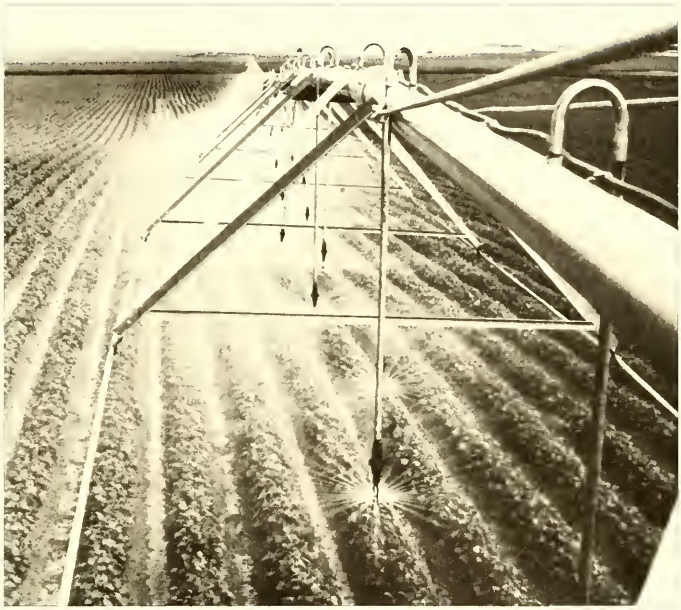
Although "chemigation" is a word you won't find listed in Webster's Dictionary, it's a term that frequently is being mentioned in every avenue of agriculture.

By definition, chemigation includes any process whereby chemicals are applied to land or crops in or with water through an on-farm irrigation system.

Today, chemigation can be broken down into newly created terms like fertigation, herbigation, fungigation, insectigation and nemagation. In other words, chemigation now includes the application of chemicals to both soil and foliage in a wide variety of formulations.

"In practice, it's a concept that is growing all across the country," says Dale Threadgill, professor and head of the department of ag engineering at the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station. As part of his role there, Threadgill has been extensively involved in chemigation research for more than 11 years.

"Even though the term chemigation is relatively new, the concept of fertigation likely began hundreds of years ago when farmers simply dumped animal manure into irrigation canals," he says. "However, the advances in irrigation system design and the availability of chemical injection equipment have led to the development of a wealth of new technology."



A Lindsay Manufacturing Company Photo

By injecting fertilizer and herbicides and insecticides directly into irrigation water, a growing number of farmers are finding a way to reduce soil compaction, improve timing and reduce the cost of multiple applications.

Benefits and Trade Offs

According to Threadgill, chemigation can offer several advantages over conventional ground or aerial application. Among them are excellent uniformity of product application, reduction of soil compaction and mechanical damage to crops, easy incorporation, prescription application of chemicals and potential cost reduction.

But for all the benefits, there also are trade-offs, including safety considerations and additional capital outlay. Chemical injection equipment and tanks can range in price from $1,000 to $5,000.

Nevertheless, the benefits and economics of chemigation prompted its acceptance on more than 10.6 million acres of U.S. cropland by 1983, with many of those acres being chemigated more than once a year.

"Out of that total, over 84 percent of the acreage was chemigated with sprinkler irrigation systems," Threadgill adds. "Fertigation was the most widely used form of chemigation, followed by the application of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and nematicide in decreasing order."

An analysis conducted by Threadgill, which included both fixed and variable costs, indicated that chemigation is most cost effective when two or more applications are made annually on each field. But unless the chemical requires incorporation, single applications often are cost prohibitive due to the fixed cost of tanks and injection equipment.

Legislative Action

The practice of chemigation is being addressed in state legislatures across the country as concerns arise about human and environmental safety. In many cases the people most involved with its use are the ones calling for more regulation.

In addition to being a state representative from Colorado's 60th District, Lewis Entz of Hooper, Colorado, farms approximately 1,000 acres of potatoes, barley and wheat in the heavily irrigated San Luis Valley. Most of his crops also are chemigated several times per year. Still, the Colorado farmer has been the driving force behind new legislative bills which call for stiff regulation of chemigation within the state by 1990.

Like the laws in effect in several other states, Entz's primary focus is on the use of safety equipment to prevent the spill or backflow of chemicals into a well.

"My main concern is that we don't pollute the underground water," he says. "It's too vital, and I don't want agriculture to be the culprit if it does happen."

For both safety and liability reasons, Entz has already retrofitted the majority of his wells with safety equipment. "I'm a firm believer that if we are going to chemigate, it should be done right, or we shouldn't do it at all," he continues. •••

Reprinted with permission from Case IH Farm Forum magazine.

Shane Clark, left, and Corey Legé of Abbeville, Louisiana, prepare alligator tail for the Genoa, Ohio, agriculture class.

Members got to know each other at cookouts.

The Buckeye-Bayou Exchange

FFA members from Ohio and Louisiana visit each other and discover differences and similarities.

It is a long way from the beaches of Lake Erie to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, but two energetic FFA chapters didn't let a thousand miles keep them apart.

Four members and the advisor of the Genoa, Ohio, FFA Chapter and one member of the Gibsonburg, Ohio, chapter traveled last April 13 to visit the farms, businesses, school and community of their fellow FFA members in Abbeville, Louisiana.

Julie Zeller, Kim Bringe, Chris Selmek, Eric Amstutz, Josh Henline and advisor Jim Henline toured Abbeville's agricultural industry which includes rice mills, a seafood packing plant and a number of farms, including crawfish and alligator operations.

One day was spent by the Ohio students in the Abbeville High School agriculture classroom presenting lessons on Ohio farming, local and state FFA activities, political history of northwest Ohio, unique plants and animals of northwest Ohio and the local climate, geology and effect of Lake Erie on the Genoa area.

The group also toured National Audubon's Rainey Wildlife Refuge where they observed gulf coast animals, including alligators, and marsh habitat.

The Genoa members stayed in the homes of the Abbeville members for the four-day excursion. They were treated to the local diet that included heavy portions of rice, spicy meat and seafood.

Their stay ended with a crawfish boil that was attended by a large crowd of high school students, teachers and administrators. The Ohio delegation proved to be nimble crawfish "peelers" and eaters.

On to Ohio

Ten days later, on April 27, Shane Clark and Corey Legé of the Abbeville chapter arrived in Toledo, Ohio, for the second half of the chapter-to-chapter exchange.

Clark and Legé spent one day talking about Louisiana agriculture at Genoa High School and another day at neighboring Gibsonburg High School. In Genoa, the Louisiana members topped-off their presentation on Louisiana agriculture, wildlife and school activities with a special treat— cooked alligator tail, Cajun style. Legé has an alligator farm in Louisiana.

The students then toured the Ottawa National Wildlife Preserve and Crane Creek State Wildlife preserve along the shores of Lake Erie.

The students discovered that problems such as industrial pollution, soil erosion and habitat destruction are occurring in the Lake Shore wetlands in Ohio as well as the Gulf Coast wetlands in Louisiana.

While traveling around northwestern Ohio, the Louisiana students had the opportunity to watch "Eastern Cornbelt" agriculture along with specialty crops grown along Lake Erie, including sugar beets, processing tomatoes, cucumbers and fruit trees.

Tips for a Successful Exchange

Genoa FFA advisors Jim Henline and Charlie Schneider say the purpose of the program is to expose students to agriculture, lifestyles and high school agriculture programs in other parts of the country. It was the second year for the Genoa chapter exchange program which traveled to Genoa, Nebraska, in 1987.

Students are matched with a host family after answering a questionnaire that identifies common interests. With students staying with FFA host families, trip expenses are limited to transportation costs. As a gesture of appreciation for the host family hospitality, Genoa students take a gift package of Ohio food products to their hosts. The food is donated from area food processors and businesses.

The advisors say that the chapter-to-chapter exchange program is a good educational experience for the students involved and also an excellent source of publicity for the chapter.

A list of FFA chapters interested in chapter exchanges has been compiled by the National FFA Organization. Chapters may send requests for the list to: Chapter-To-Chapter Exchange, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. •••

Genoa FFA Reporter Vicki Colvin contributed the information for this story.

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FFA In Action

National FFA Officers in Action at Work or Play

The national officers were in Washington, DC, for orientation and training sessions for their year of service. One such session was at USDA with Marci Hilt, preparing to face interviews on the air. (See complete story on page 50)

During December the officers were at the FFA Center learning how the national organization functions when it started snowing. And since Jeff Johnson had never seen snow, the rest of the team couldn't resist a proper initiation.

Scholastic Seniors Star

The Clinton-Central, Indiana, chapter used a number of activities such as a scholarship bulletin board and points on the point system to make members aware of the importance of good grades.

One activity in particular occurred in May when the high school conducted senior awards day. The entire student body attended.

During the program the FFA presented awards to the chapter's outstanding seniors. Scholarship was a determining factor in all of the awards the chapter presented.

Neal Stock, Matt Lucas, Todd Caldwell, Bill Sheffer, and Joe Rule received awards at the school's awards day program. Chapter President Darren Clouse read about the members' accomplishments, while Sentinel Chris Keller passed out the awards. Scholarship was a determining factor in picking the winner of each award.

Five senior FFA members were recognized during the Awards Day Presentation. Neal Stock received the Senior Leadership and Senior Scholarship Awards. Joe Rule was the Star Chapter Farmer. Star Chapter Agribusinessman went to Bill Sheffer. Matt Lucas received the Dekalb Award and the Ag Mechanics Award. Todd Caldwell was the recipient of the Determination Award.

The chapter advisors used a scoring system in order to determine the winner of each award except the Leadership Award. In choosing that award winner, chapter members were made aware of each senior's scholarship record, and then they chose the winner. (From the National Chapter Award application form)

Paint On the Market Place

The Calellen, Texas, Chapter refurbished a building in downtown Corpus Christi for a Farmers' market.

The market was instituted not only for the local producers to sell their products, but was a combined effort to regenerate the downtown area and to stimulate the agricultural and economic growth of Corpus Christi and Nueces County.

The refurbishing consisted of cleaning, remodeling and painting the structure, so that the building would be in top shape for the buyers as well as those marketing their produce.

Upon the completion of the fix-up project, the chapter and other cooperating groups in the county held the first annual Nueces County Harvest Hodown. The activities included music, games and various concession stands. Our chapter was involved with the setting up of the necessary booths and placing tarps over the parking lot area, to provide shade for the activities.

The Harvest Hodown was the grand opening of the market. The mayor was guest of honor as were other city officials. The mayor recognized our chapter for all the work we did in helping the Farmers' Market come to life. (D'Ann Thompson)

Fields of Questions

The Elk Grove, California hosted their sixth consecutive third grade Field Day in September and fifteen members brought their SOE projects to the school farm. Each gave 10 minute presentations to tell the third grade students, their teachers and other community members what agriculture and their particular project was all about.

There were over 400 third graders who learned about milking a goat, shearing a sheep, seeing how cotton is made into fiber, and sitting in the drivers seat of a corn harvester. There was much interest in all the areas with many nice thank you letters received from the third graders.

Following the presentations, the FFA and the Young Farmer Chapter hosted a Salute to Ag luncheon with over 150.

Scramble At the OK Corral

The Atwater, California, FFA makes a point to be highly visible at their town's fall festival with two community service projects. One is a petting zoo of farm animals with sheep, pigs, calves and rabbits tended by members. The other project is the O.K. Corral in which $125 in quarters, donated by local banks, are tossed into a straw-filled corral. Children are admitted by age group to scramble for the quarters. (Chris Hernandez, Reporter)

Team Teaching

All members of Gervais, Oregon, FFA were able to benefit from leadership sessions conducted for their chapter by Oregon FFA State President Scott Ruby and Sentinel Ken Johnston. The officer team informed the students of the many opportunities available through the National FFA Organization.

The sessions are part of the state leadership tour presented by the state FFA officers. Scott and Ken make up just one of the three officer teams who conduct this statewide tour of chapters. (Susan Adleman)

Bounty Sunday

Johnstown, Ohio, FFA members presented a special Sunday morning service to celebrate the harvest season at the Miller United Methodist church. The chapter arranged for an agricultural missionary to present the sermon.They also asked Alumni members to help assemble the display of farm products. (From the National Chapter Award application form)

Great Balls of Fire

All proceeds from the Guthrie, Oklahoma, FFA dunking booth at the county fair were used to buy smoke detectors for the elderly.

One detector was installed during Fire Prevention Week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hill. "We think ths is a great thing young people are doing to help make our homes safer," said Mrs. Hill. The Hills and chapter safety committee Sarah Bartram, Kevin Freundt and Tonia Willson were televised on Channel 9 News at 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

The members plan to continue this project in the future by raising enough money every year to buy more detectors and maintain the ones that are being installed. (Tonia Willson, Reporter)

I Wanta Be A Fireman

During National Fire Prevention Week, Cissna Park, Illinois, FFA worked with the elementary school teachers and the

(Continued on Page 48)

Traveling Team

"Together We Stand" was the theme of the 1987-88 FFA Alumni Relations committee of the Denmark, Wisconsin, Chapter. The theme was picked because of the structure of the FFA-FFA Alumni program in our chapter. The FFA Alumni has members on our Alumni Relations committee and we have members on their board of directors. The Alumni meets each month and has several special meetings as well. They are constantly supporting us.

The FFA works hard to show the alumni that their support is well worth it, whether it be monetary, technical or physical assistance.

The Alumni purchased a new van this year for the FFA and provided the chapter members many more opportunities than ever before. They have cooperated with four other service groups in the community for continuing the improvement of the local Denmark Memorial Park. The Alumni has spearheaded our local fund drive for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation; this year ending with a grand total of $2,525. This is a large sum and continues to show the type of dedication this group has not only for the FFA members at Denmark High School but the FFA members in the state as well. (From the National Chapter Award application form)

Denmark FFA and Alumni work together in nearly all aspects of chapter operation whether it be work or play. Even their outdoor billboard promotes both the chapter and its affiliate.

The Alumni gave the FFA a new van. Besides being very useful, this van helps create a strong public image for the agriculture department and the chapter.

FFA In Action

Cissna Park firemen to hold a Fire Awareness Program.

They ordered supplies from different companies for everyone. For the kindergartners, they got fire hats; for the first and second graders, they got pencils, rulers and pencil sharpeners to remind them of fire safety. For the third, fourth and fifth graders they got color and puzzle books about fire safety.

The kindergartners also got a tour of the firehouse and all the trucks. Then the firemen brought several pieces of equipment down to show how it worked and how they could stop a grease fire in their homes by using an extinguisher or a towel if nothing else was handy. The firemen did a super job getting the point across and the chapter was very pleased at the response they got from the grade school teachers and students.

(From the National Chapter Award application form)

This is the kindergarten class of "fire fighters." They got a tour of the firehouse and got to see inside all the trucks and ambulance. The firemen dressed in their fire gear so the students could see they were not monsters, but men there to help.

Digging In With Full Support For FFA

Just a few more shovels and there would be no need for construction equipment at ground breaking ceremonies for the new Florida FFA Center. From left to right are Wesley Davis, State FFA President; Gary Bartley, executive director, Florida FFA Foundation; Ray Cooney, retired vice chairman, Scotty's, Inc. and an FFA Foundation President; Chesterfield Smith, Holland & Knight and vice chairman, FFA Capital Campaign; Charles Lykes, Lykes Brosl, FFA Foundation vice president; Bill Hollis, National FFA vice president; Bob Howell, director, Division of Vocational, Adult and Community Education; Doyle Conner, Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Ernie Caldwell, Polk County Commissioner, chairman, FFA Capital Campaign; Janet Roth, public relations manager, International Minerals & Chemical Corporation; John Denmark, State FFA Advisor; Mark Williams, president, Florida FFA Alumni; Delbert Redditt, president, Florida Vocational Teachers Association; and Danny Bartlett, State FFA Program Specialist.

Pointing the Way

Members of the Tennessee Tech collegiate chapter of FFA in Cookeville cleaned and repainted the Tech "arrow" sign as a community service project. Members shown from the left to right are Steve York, Laurie Horvath, Kellie Crouch, Gloria Kirkpatrick and Phillip Baker.

No Small Potatoes

Tracy Fliehman, a member of the East Clinton, Ohio, Chapter placed first at the Ohio State Fair with his potatoes and shelled corn. Tracy's champion items sold at auction during the fair. The potatoes brought $2,000 and his champion corn brought $1,300. The buyer of the potatoes was Big Bear Stores, Inc. and the buyer of the corn was Schmidt Sausage Haus.

The Seeds of Victory

The 1988 New Lexington, Ohio, FFA pumpkin show/contest was a huge success. The largest pumpkin weighed in at over 200 pounds. (Our record weight is 357 pounds.) This year's FFA winner was Jason O'Brien with a pumpkin of 155 pounds. The FFA Alumni winning entry weighed 119 pounds. Free pumpkin ice cream was given away.

Seeds from the winning pumpkin will be given to anyone who wants to enter. Contact the New Lexington FFA at Panther Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764 for details or seeds.

One Man Is The Link

A Community-to-Community Partnership in Ecuador and Virginia

Mark Mitchell went to Ecuador to help teach farmers how to raise cattle and improve their breeding programs. But like all FFA leaders, he couldn't resist getting involved in the local community.

And now he has the Abingdon, Virginia, FFA and his alma mater, involved too.

The project that attracted Mark's interest was the completion of a kindergarten and elementary school in El Carmen, Ecuador. The village folks had put up walls and begun the work, but then funds ran out. It needed a roof and windows and doors. And Mark decided to help.

So he applied to the Peace Corps Partnership program which channels funds from U.S. partners to help groups working in other countries. On his application Mark suggested his former FFA Chapter might be interested. So in October when he was home on leave, he spoke to the chapter and his former high school about the project and his work in El Camen.

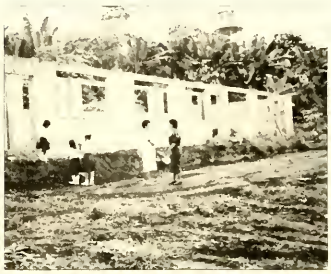
The chapter was excited about the project and decided to make it a community effort. They even enlisted the help of several other clubs in their school. Just before Christmas, the Abingdon students sent $1,250 to Mark to help with the project.

FFA members themselves contributed money and then the chapter matched it. The Abingdon Student Council and student body also made a major contribution. Besides gifts from other school clubs like FHA, DECA, Future Teachers, Latin, Library, Interact, Spanish, and Key, several area merchants made donations.

Mark was an active member of the Abingdon Chapter and earned his American FFA Degree. He graduated from Virginia Tech in June of 1987 with a degree in animal science and two days later joined the Peace Corps. He has been in south America about 16 months. "I joined the Peace Corps to be involved in international agriculture, to travel and to experience completely new things."

Mark lives and works on a dairy farm with primary responsibilities of teaching classes for local farmers. So far his work has included helping reduce cattle breeding problems, and the introduction of artificial insemination into the Holstein and Brahman herds.

The school project in the village was spotted by Mark as "a job that needed doing." The village had acquired the land and constructed the floor and walls of the building to serve the 350 students in grades K through 6.*(Chapter reporter, Michael Hayter, interviewed Mr. Mitchell during his visit to Abington in October.)*



The new Jarden Infautes y Escuela Bertha Delgado De Garzon School in El Carmen will benefit from FFA partnership support from Virginia.

LEADERS

Leaders are developed through FFA. Todd Grider, Robbie Hunt, Steve Beam and Jeff Harrison, the 1988 regional FFA Horse Proficiency Award winners, are leaders in the equine industry. We salute them and each chapter and state winner. Through your dedication and work, the equine industry is assured a bright future!

AQHA extends a special congratulations to national winner Jeff Harrison, Hugo, Oklahoma FFA.

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National FFA adviser Dr. Larry Case congratulates the regional FFA Horse Proficiency Award winners: Todd Grider, Adair County FFA, Columbia, Kentucky; Robbie Hunt, Sun Valley FFA, Monroe, North Carolina; Steve Beam, Arab FFA, Arab, Alabama; and Jeff Harrison, national winner, Hugo FFA, Hugo, Oklahoma.

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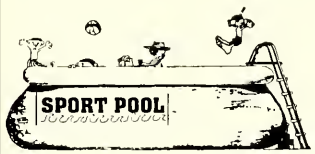

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Dealers Wanted!

Andrew Markwart Photo

President Ronald Reagan is awarded a plaque by Dana Soukup, national FFA president, in the Oval Office of the White House. Participating in the ceremony were, left to right, Warren Boerger, Brad Chambliss, Jaye Hamby, Reagan, Soukup, Scott Isom and Jeff Johnson.

National Officers Meet with President Reagan

President Ronald Reagan praised FFA for being "the nation's training ground for future leaders in the country's agricultural industry" as he met with the six national FFA officers in the Oval Office of the White House on December 15, 1988.

Reagan noted that the "talented and dedicated young people who participate in the organization will assure that the U.S. remains the world's biggest agricultural producer into the 21st century."

Dana Soukup, national FFA president, thanked Reagan for his leadership and presented him with a plaque, saying, "You are the most loving, caring, open man in the nation and we thank you for that. Your love is for all persons and your light is for all time."

President Reagan reminded the new officers that a number of FFA alumni have worked closely with him in his administration including John Block, former secretary of agriculture; the late Malcolm Baldridge, former secretary of commerce and Fred McClure, a former aide to the president.

The FFA officer team agreed that they were awed and humbled by the experience of meeting the president and said that it was sad that they would be the last officer team to meet with Reagan as president.

Jeff Johnson, national FFA secretary, likened the experience to, "the feeling of walking into the national FFA convention as a Greenhand, but multiplied by about a thousand times."

The officers were in the Washington area for a two-week training seminar that included media and speaking training, meetings with FFA Center staff and scheduling for the upcoming year. •••

"Hey, what's the big idea?"

My Turn

with

At the 61st National FFA convention, the enthusiasm that was shown by the 23,000 in attendance pointed out to me once again why I believe so strongly in the young adults of the FFA. Yet this past convention will most be remembered as an "assembly of leaders prepared for change." The changes I speak of are the constitutional amendments that were debated and voted on by the convention delegates.

Amendments such as allowing the optional use of "FFA" instead of "Future Farmers of America" and changing "vocational education" to "agriculture education" in the constitution and on the emblem spurred much debate on the convention floor. If you haven't already, I encourage you to read the article at the beginning of this magazine on the amendment changes and their implementation.

Where do we want the FFA to be 20 years from now?

Change for the sake of change is unnecessary, but change that is progressive, reflects the agriculture industry, and meets the needs of current and prospective FFA members is necessary. I believe the amendment changes have been for the good. We still appreciate our heritage and history and yet we have demonstrated that it will not limit progress.

Now we are faced with the challenge of implementing these changes so that they benefit our organization. Let us keep in mind that we need a unified effort and cooperation within the entire agriculture education profession to make this transition smooth. These times require us to be open-minded, not only about the current amendments but more so about the possibility of more changes.

Because we are open-minded and want what is best for the FFA organization, we can ask ourselves some pressing questions. Have we changed the FFA, agricultural education, and ourselves enough to propel us to the year 2000? Is using "FFA" instead of "Future Farmers of America" enough of a change to project a "broader" image? Do most of our activities, ceremonies, and the emblem reflect only the production aspect of agriculture? What image are our chapters portraying to other students and the community? Where do we want the FFA to be 20 years from now? We must deal with these issues and control our own destiny.

Leaders have vision. Leaders are receptive to change. Leaders in an organization realize that what you think of yourselves and what others think of you determines the level of success and growth for your organization. FFA members, you are the leaders!

We realize that farming is not a dying occupation, that agriculture is farming plus over 200 other exciting careers, and that agricultural education and the FFA are preparing young people to fill these positions. Do others not involved in FFA realize this? That is why it is so vital that our actions and activities represent our total program and that we aggressively promote what we do. I am not advocating massive change, only challenging you to consider how we can make the greatest youth organization even greater.

During the American Revolution, Abigail Adams began a letter to Thomas Jefferson in this manner, "These are the hard times in which a genius would wish to live. Great necessities call for great leaders." FFA members, you are the minutemen of the FFA revolution. You are the leaders in this time of need. I have faith that you will choose what is best for the FFA. •••

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Joke Page

Dad was admonishing his son to be more particular about the girls he dated.

"Sorry, Dad," his son responded, *"but they're the best I can get with the car we've got."*

Sarah Pingel
New Auburn, Wisconsin

"Why did you write so big?" the mother asked Jeff after seeing his note to grandma.

"Well, Grandma is hard of hearing, so I wrote loud," replied the boy.

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

One farmer to another says, *"I hear they are going to outlaw big round bales in Wisconsin from now on."*

"Why?" asked the second farner.

"Because the cows can't get a square meal!"

Larry Dahl
Rio, Wisconsin

"I'm sorry, but with the slop you don't get a trip to the salad bar."

Woman to friend: *"My husband and I eat from three basic food groups - canned, frozen and take out."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

A teacher brought his FFA class to a peach farm. The manager of the farm gave the kids a complete tour of everything. When the manager asked if they had any questions, a student said, "What do you do with all these peaches?" The manager replied, "We eat what we can, and what we can't we can!"

Brian Underland
Willmar, Minnesota

Three applicants went in for a sales-persons job selling toothbrushes. The employer found that all three qualified for the position. He sent them out for a trial run. All three came back and the first man said, *"I sold ten brushes."* The second man replied, *"I sold twenty brushes."* The third man sadly said, *"I didn't sell any brushes."*

The employer felt sorry for the third man and sent them all out again and again, but the third man couldn't sell one toothbrush.

Finally the employer said to the third man, *"You need to get a gimmick,"* and they went out again. This time the third man sold over 200 toothbrushes. *""So what is your gimmick?"* the employer asked. "

"I gave moldy bread to the people. They would eat the moldy bread and say, 'This tastes rotten' and I would say, It is! Do you want to buy a toothbrush?"

Terry Harrison
Celeste, Texas

A farmer was standing in his watermelon patch loading watermelons for the market. Along came a little boy with his fishing pole going fishing. The little boy asked the farmer, *"How much do you get for your watermelons?"*

The farmer told the little boy he got from $1 to $2 a piece.

The little boy said, *"I just have a dime."*

The farmer replied, *"I will sell you that little bitty one there on the vine for a dime."*

The little boy handed the farmer his dime and said, *"I'll be back to get my watermelon in three weeks."*

Gary Frith
Grove Hill, Alabama

Q. What do you call a relative who sleeps all the time ?
A. Nap-Kin

Nancy England
Oneida, Illinois

Charlie, the Greenhand

"Let me explain why it still looks dark to you!"

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